SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 26
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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

'Louder than thunder'

Acetylene tank left in car explodes in West End, blowing out windows and injuring two PAGE 3

Death renews terror fears

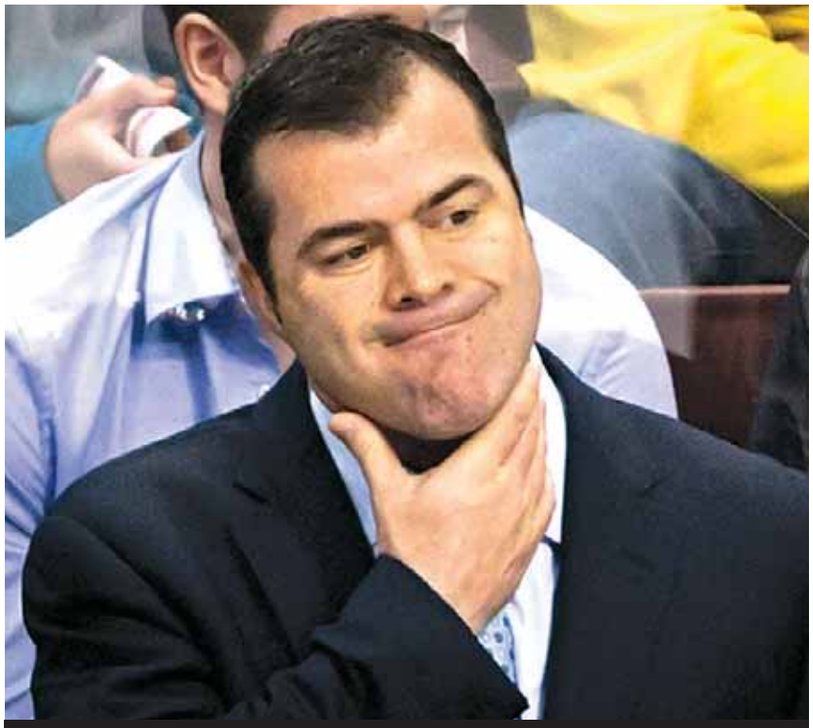
Man attacked with butcher knives in London in assault by suspected radicals PAGE 14

This one's for the kids

Vancouver International Children's Festival promises family fun at Granville Island PAGE 20

HUMAN AFTER ALL

ELECTRONIC DUO BEHIND DAFT PUNK PREFER TO STAY BEHIND THE MASKS AS THEIR SOUND GOES HOLLYWOOD PAGE 23



FOR WHOM THE WHISTLE TOLLS

Vancouver Canucks head coach Alain Vigneault reacts on the bench during the team's 5-2 loss to the Detroit Red Wings back in March. After being swept in the first round of the playoffs, the Canucks announced Wednesday that they had fired Vigneault as well as associate coach Rick Bowness and assistant Newell Brown. Story, page 36. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dix leaves fate in NDP's hands

Fallout. Leader says he'll do what the party feels is best after stunning election loss

A tough-talking Adrian Dix took full responsibility Wednesday for the NDP's humiliating election loss, but he remained noncommittal about his future.

In his first press availability since May 14, Dix owned up to running a campaign that wasn't critical enough of the Liberal record and botching his stance on the proposed Kinder Morgan Trans-Mountain pipeline.

The humbled NDP leader said he will remain at the helm, but he would only commit to staying on until an internal party review of the catastrophic campaign is completed.

"As leader of the B.C. NDP, I take full responsibility for this defeat. Disappointment doesn't even begin to describe how that feels," said Dix in a stern tone, showing he's already learned some lessons from the campaign. "Clearly, our campaign was not good enough. We did not do a good enough job prosecuting the case against the government and their record."

Quoted

"What I'm focused on is the short term. It's not simply what I want, it's what the party wants and what caucus wants."

NDP Leader Adrian Dix

The NDP brain trust opted to run a positive campaign mostly devoid of attacks on the Liberals.

On Wednesday, Dix admitted that strategy let Premier Christy Clark and her scandal-prone government off the hook with voters and, crucially, set the tone of the election.

"The answer to the Liberals' populist right-wing playbook is not simply to adopt it — but voters expect opposition leaders in particular to hold sitting premiers accountable for their records," he said. "You have to find the problem before you can persuade people of the solution. I should have done a much better job of this."

Perhaps the turning point of the election was Dix's sudden opposition to the Kinder Morgan pipeline, which he had previously refused to pass judgment on as a matter of principle, as the company had yet to file its application.

The opposition to the pipeline helped the Liberals portray the NDP as a party that would hurt the economy.

"(The announcement) hurt our campaign," Dix said. "Plainly, I didn't handle the issue very well."

With a full election review looming, Dix seemed to set the stage for another leader to take his place in the 2017 vote.

"I assure you this review will spare nothing and no one, least of all me."

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

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A car with a leaking acetylene tank in the trunk exploded in the West End early Wednesday morning. ERIC DREGER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

‘It looked like it exploded from the inside out’

Leaking acetylene tank. West End car explosion injures two, shatters apartment windows

KATE WEBB
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A plumber who left an acetylene tank in his trunk triggered an explosion early Wednesday morning that shattered surrounding apartment windows 12 storeys up and injured two men.

The owner of the Toyota Matrix was parked on Nicola Street just south of Robson around 6:50 a.m. when his remote key created a spark that ignited the gas, according to Capt. Gabe Roder of the Vancouver fire department.

Miraculously, the owner of the car was not hurt, even though he was standing just a few feet away, but the explosion blew out the windows of a car that was driving by and two men who were inside suffered cuts and scrapes.

“It sounded like really loud thunder, but a lot louder than thunder,” said Kaz Deen, who lives with his girlfriend in one of the buildings nearby.

“We both kind of shuddered.... It looked like it exploded from the inside out. It was completely destroyed. I’ve never seen anything like it.”

Jan Campbell lives at the end of the alley across the street and said she was shaken up.

“It set off all my clocks, my printer, the phone started blinking, the coffee maker started blinking, the stove clock started blinking,” she said.

Police have interviewed the owner of the car and the wreckage was towed away.

Roder said the acetylene tank must have had a leak, and he reminded citizens it is dangerous to store and transport any type of gas. He said it should always be transported in a well-ventilated area, secured to the vehicle and away from any source of heat.

“The timing of this was fortunate as far as the potential for what could have happened had there been more people on the sidewalk. It could have been a whole different story,” he said.

“There was one big mistake that was made that we cannot repeat, and that is putting a propane or an acetylene tank in an enclosed compartment like your car.”

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Get ready to rock around the block

Engaged City Task Force. Mayor eyes citywide block party for Vancouver

ELIZABETH HAMES
vancouver@metronews.ca

Dust off your boom box — it's time to party.

As a step toward creating a more neighbourly Vancouver, the city could implement a citywide Block Party Day as early as this summer.

"Block parties have been a great innovation for Vancouver," Mayor Gregor Robertson said Wednesday at a news conference at Collingwood Neighbourhood House.

"But looking at catalyzing it in one day so people can move throughout the city from block to block, and see what each neighbourhood is made of, is another opportunity."

Block Party Day is one of 16 recommendations put forward by the Mayor's Engaged City Task Force, headed by Coun. Andrea Reimer, which unveiled its initial report on Wednesday. The task force was organized last year in response to dwindling civic engagement. In recent municipal elections, as few as 30 to 35 per cent of the electorate bothered to cast a ballot, a statistic Robertson called "abysmal."

Meanwhile, a Vancouver Foundation report revealed last year that the world's most livable city is full of isolated, lonely people.

"Civic engagement is not really an option, it's a must-do," Robertson said. "We can and should do better."

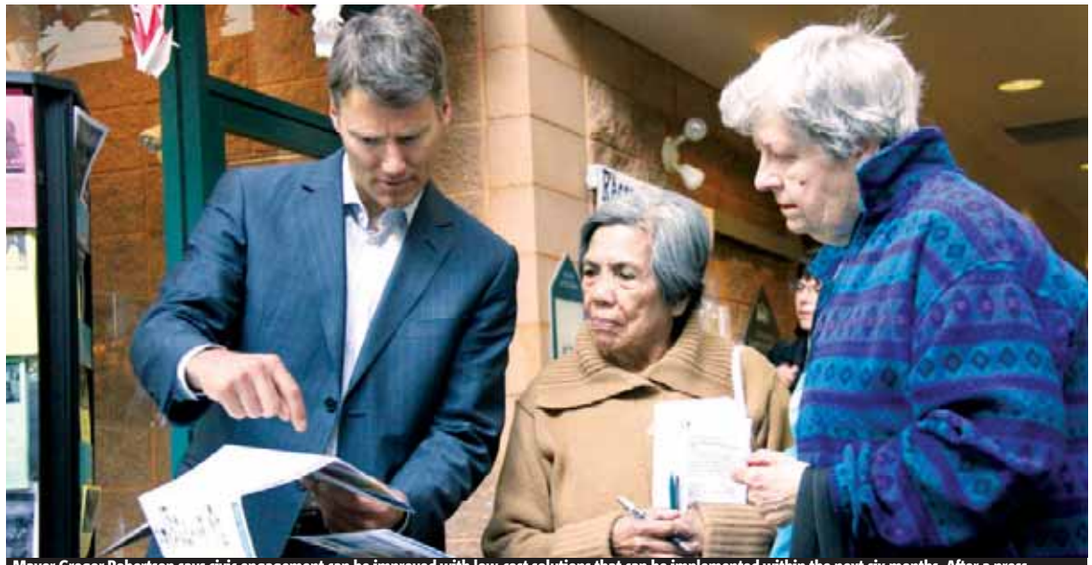
He said most of the recommendations are low-cost solutions that can be implemented within the next six months.

"They're not that tough," he said, adding that he expects to see "longer-term recommendations" in the final report due out in July. In the meantime, the task force will seek public input through programs such as an "ideas jam" as well as an online forum.

Engaged City Task Force

Among the other recommendations:

- A Mobile City Hall that would bring services to communities across the city
- Participatory budgeting, which would involve residents in budgetary decisions for improvements in their neighbourhood
- A page on the city website where citizens can register to vote 365 days a year



Mayor Gregor Robertson says civic engagement can be improved with low-cost solutions that can be implemented within the next six months. After a press conference on Wednesday at Collingwood Neighbourhood House, he discussed the new food-scraps collection schedule with local residents. ELIZABETH HAMES/FOR METRO

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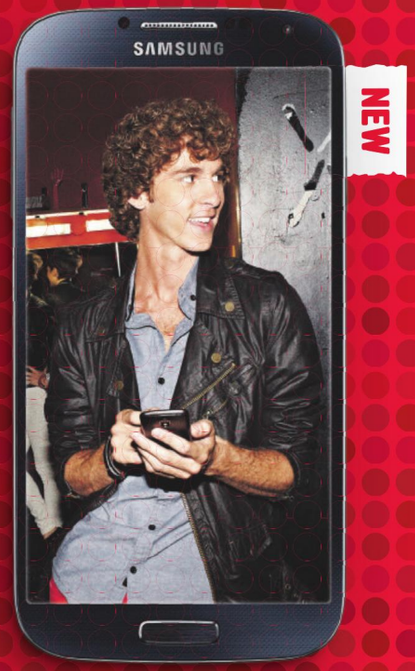

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Too many cooks in the kitchen ... and lucky us!

EAT! Vancouver. Event veteran Rob Feenie to face off against young Top Chef finalist, Food Network host

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

Celebrity chef Rob Feenie has been a fixture at Vancouver's largest annual food and cooking festival since its inception, but these days EAT! Vancouver might be the only place where you can still watch him compete.

With 23 Cactus Club Cafés to oversee, a wife and three kids, the 48-year-old one-time Iron Chef champion says lately he doesn't have time for much else.

But Friday night at 7 p.m. he will return to the festival stage to throw down against Food Network host Anna Olson and 29-year-old Top Chef Canada Season 2 finalist Trevor Bird.

"I love competition, don't get me wrong," he told Metro after describing the festival's annual celebrity-chef competition as "a picnic in the park."

"I think it's in my blood, so to speak, with Iron Chef America, but I'd like to really support a lot of these younger guys in doing it and get them out there and get behind them.

"Trevor, I watched a bit of him last year in Season 2 of Top Chef. He's a very experienced chef and he's doing very well at (his Vancouver restaurant) Fable."

Feenie said going head to head with Bird will bring back fond memories for him of his legendary victory over Iron Chef Masaharu Morimoto in 2005.

"I was shaking in my boots," he recalled. "It's one of the greatest things I've done."

Details

The 11th annual EAT! Vancouver Food and Cooking Festival

- **Where:** BC Place Stadium
- **When:** Friday May 24, 2-9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **Tickets:** Adults $16 ($14 online), seniors $14, youths 13-16 $9, free for kids 12 and under
- **Info:** eat-vancouver.com

Cactus Club Café executive chef Rob Feenie has been demonstrating his acclaimed cooking skills at EAT! Vancouver for the past 11 years. HANDOUT

In the heat of the TV lights and stovetops, the trio of duelling chefs will have to whip up a seasonal entrée using a secret ingredient — all in just 20 minutes.

"They say go, and then it's finished. It's that fast," Feenie said. "You have to be very well organized, very quick, very efficient, and there's really not a lot of time to waste at all."

In addition to trying to curry favour with the lone contest judge — ET Canada host Erin Cebula — Feenie will be doing four cooking demonstrations throughout the festival: two on Friday at 3 and 5 p.m. and two more on Saturday at 12:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Samples of his culinary art will go to a lucky few spectators who can correctly answer trivia questions about the cooking processes.

The Food Network Celebrity Stage will also feature demonstrations throughout the weekend by Olson, Spice Goddess Bal Arneson and chef Chuck Hughes of Chuck's Week Off.

The three-day festival features 250 exhibitors, demonstrations and cooking classes.

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Science cracks spruce tree's genetic code

Defence. Scientists will be able to study what genetic traits make trees resistant to insects or cold temperatures

The same Vancouver laboratory that mapped the breast-cancer genome has successfully decoded the genetic building blocks of another important organism: the white spruce, a natural resource worth billions.

"It gives us all the information, the parts list essentially, that is used to make that tree," said Prof. Steven Jones, an associate director of the Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre at the BC Cancer Agency.

Jones' team of scientists pieced the genes together "like a very large, complex jigsaw puzzle" and published the results in the academic journal Bioinformatics.

"Now we've got those individual genes in hand, that certainly gives us a leg up in understanding how this tree works from a very fundamental, basic research perspective," Jones said.

Quoted

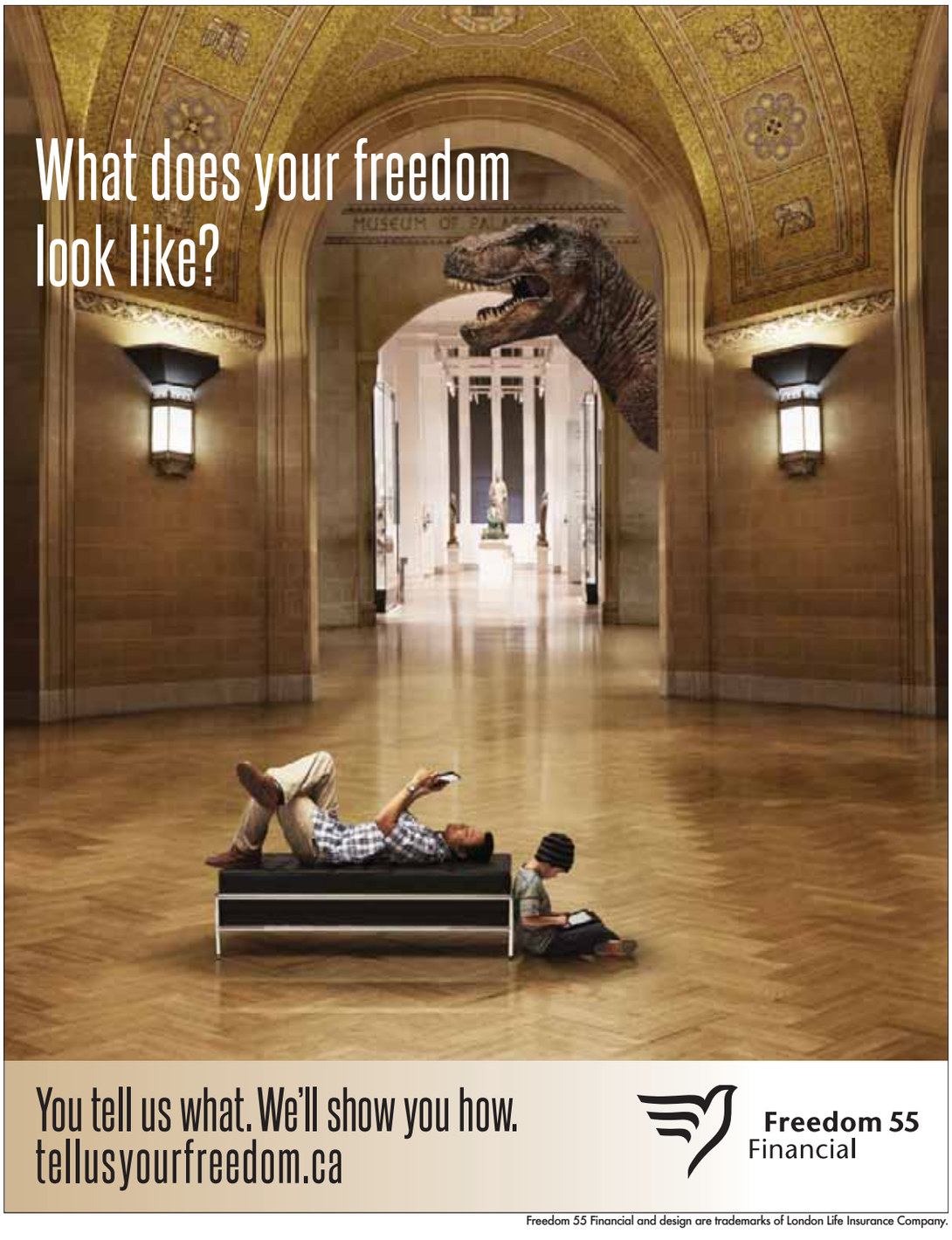
"This represents a tree that is extremely common across Canada and actually makes up a large amount of the lumber that is produced in Canada. It's important from an economic perspective." Prof. Steven Jones

By using this new map of the spruce tree genome, Jones said, scientists will be able to study what genetic traits make trees resistant to insects or cold temperatures.

Jones said foresters will be able to use this kind of research to decide what species of tree is best suited to certain environments.

"This represents a tree that is extremely common across Canada and actually makes up a large amount of the lumber that is produced in Canada. It's important from an economic perspective."

TYLER HARBOTTLE/THE CANADIAN PRESS, EXCLUSIVELY FOR METRO



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Tragedy

Drugs, alcohol didn't play role in crash: Coroner

Drugs and alcohol played no role in a crash in Surrey last month that killed six people, including five members of the same family, B.C.'s coroners service said Wednesday.

Pawandaeep Arjot, 31, Annish Sachdeva, 5, Jessica Sachdeva, 3, Neelam Rani Dhingra, 47 and Vidya Want Sachdeva, 68, were killed April 28, when their car was hit broadside by a minivan at the intersection of 32nd Avenue and Pacific Highway in Surrey.

JEFF HODSON/METRO

Campus watch

Alleged groper lurking near UBC, police warn

Police are warning UBC students to remain vigilant following two groping incidents on campus within a month.

In one incident a woman was walking along Westbrook Mall near Thunderbird Boulevard when a man reached under her skirt from behind and grabbed her buttocks. She let out a scream and the alleged groper ran off.

She described the suspect as a twenty-something man with dark hair, beard stubble and a slim build.

ELIZABETH HAMES/METRO

Looking ahead. City seeks to preserve venue for cultural community

As the fate of the Centre in Vancouver for Performing Arts remains uncertain, one city councillor is seeking to ensure its future as a cultural venue is secure.

Last week, media reported the centre had been sold to Westside Church, effectively closing the popular venue off to the cultural community.

The rumour has not been confirmed, but many tenants announced their rental contracts had been cancelled.

On Tuesday, Coun. Elizabeth Ball will put forward a motion to permit previously booked tenants use of the centre until the end of the year.

"Such permission will avert a serious destabilization of the economic realities of the local cultural community," the motion says.

Among the list of possibly ousted tenants is the Vancouver International Film Festival, which had planned to run three screenings a day at the centre during the festival in September. ELIZABETH HAMES/METRO

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Boot camp preps students for Bike to Work week

Pleasant experience. Participants will be getting snacks and prizes rather than screaming drill sergeants at this boot camp

REBEKAH FUNK
The Canadian Press
exclusively for Metro

Bikers at a local high school are proving they're just as hard core as any leather-clad road warriors in the leadup to Vancouver's annual Bike to Work event next week.

Students lined the starting mark of Eric Hamber Secondary's outdoor track during lunch on Wednesday, participating in skills-development drills, safety demonstrations and free tune-ups as part of a so-called bicycle boot camp.

The "boot camp" element may have been a stretch — with snacks and prizes rather than screaming drill sergeants.

Nevertheless, teacher organizer Dianne Murray said she's set high goals for next week.

"They could never tell us it's too far," she said of students who use distance as an excuse not to ride their bicycles in the provincewide challenge.

An avid cyclist, Murray has been biking to the school on Oak Street and 33rd Avenue from the top of Lonsdale Quay in North Vancouver for more than 15 years. Another teacher pedals in from Surrey, she added.

Viewed by many drivers as a nuisance or just plain crazy, Murray said bikers need to band together.

"I'm out here trying to get more people on the road so that cars are aware of cyclists," Murray added.

On the web

For more local news go to metronews.ca.

Students take part in a Bike to School competition at Eric Hamber Secondary School in Vancouver on Wednesday. ERIC DREGER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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On the prowl

Fearless cougar stalks house pets in Belcarra

A cougar with a taste for house pets is prowling in the Metro Vancouver community of Belcarra, just west of Port Moody.

RCMP were called to the wooded, rural neighbourhood overlooking Indian Arm at about 8:20 Tuesday night when a family reported the cougar had snatched their dog.

A 16-year-old tried to scare off the big cat, but it took a swipe at him, too, before dropping its prey.

The pooch was pulled to safety, but the cougar prowled around the house for several minutes before slinking away.

A conservation officer has been called to the area but there's no word if the cougar has been tracked. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grisly discovery

Two bodies found in lake in Vernon provincial park

Mounties are investigating after two bodies were found in Kalamalka Lake, south of Vernon.

RCMP spokesman Gord Molendyk says a resident walking in Kalamalka Provincial Park first noticed a cooler floating in the water in Cosens Bay, within Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park.

The resident then saw a second cooler on shore as well as a dog floating in the water, and called the police.

Molendyk says police and a search and rescue crew arrived on scene and recovered two bodies from the water.

RCMP isn't releasing any details about the victims at this time, and no missing-persons reports have been filed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harold Long

Plane-crash victim identified as former B.C. MLA

A former member of B.C. legislative assembly, Harold Long, has been identified as the victim in a float-plane crash off Vancouver Island.

The B.C. Coroners Service says Long was the pilot and sole occupant of a Beaver float plane that overturned in Bute Inlet, northeast of Campbell River, yesterday afternoon.

Long died at the scene and his body was recovered later in the day.

Long, who was 72, served as a Social Credit member in the Mackenzie riding from 1986 to 1991, and again as a Liberal MLA for the riding of Powell River-Sunshine Coast from 2001 to 2005.

Premier Christy Clark said she was saddened to hear of Long's death. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hundreds gather to attend memorial for Ontario man

Senseless death. Mourners remember Tim Bosma as an 'average guy who loved his family and his friends'

Tim Bosma was a mischievous man with a "crazy laugh," but most of all he was just a regular guy — and it cost him his life, family and friends say.

There was standing room only in a banquet hall in Hamilton, where hundreds gathered to remember the 32-year-old father who was killed after taking two men on a test drive.

Family and friends at the memorial focused on the senselessness of Bosma's death.

"I know that there have been skeptics out there who seem unable to believe that Tim was not somehow involved in something," his wife Sharlene Bosma said. "This sort of thing doesn't happen in Canada and it doesn't happen to people like us."

It is difficult to accept, she said, because it means it could have happened to anyone.

"But for me, it didn't happen to just anyone," she said, fighting back tears. "It happened to my husband and the father of our child. Tim is my someone. He is my person, my other half."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"This sort of thing doesn't happen in Canada and it doesn't happen to people like us."

Sharlene Bosma

Sharlene Bosma pauses during her speech as her father Louis Veenstra looks on Wednesday at a memorial for her husband, Tim Bosma, the Ontario man found dead after he took two men on a test drive. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ongoing investigation

Second suspect arrested

Hamilton police say a second man has been arrested and will face a charge of first-degree murder in the death of Tim Bosma.

On Wednesday police arrested Mark Smich, a 25-year-old man from Oakville, Ont., who police say is one of the men who went on the test drive and is to appear in court on Thursday in Hamilton where he'll face a charge of first-degree murder.

A Toronto man, Dellen Millard, is already facing charges of first-degree murder, forcible confinement and theft of a vehicle.

Police are looking for at least one other suspect — a third person they believe was following Bosma's truck in another vehicle.

Police now say that vehicle was a dark blue GMC Yukon SUV owned by Millard.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Jailhouse interview.

Convicted killer says she 'deserves a second chance'

In a surprise jailhouse interview just hours after a jury began deliberating whether she will live or die, the woman at the centre of a murder case that captivated many Americans spoke out Tuesday about her trial, her fights with her legal team and her belief that she "deserves a second chance at freedom someday."

Arias was convicted last week of first-degree murder in the June 2008 stabbing and shooting death of her one-time lover in what prosecutors described as a cold, calculated killing carried out in a jealous rage. Arias maintains it was self-defence.

Arias provided some new information about her case and how she believed her lawyers let her down by not calling more witnesses who could have bolstered her claims that she was a victim of domestic violence at the hands of Travis Alexander.

Arias acknowledged it was unlikely she would ever be released, but believed she deserves a second chance.

"To this day, I can hardly believe I was capable of such violence. But I know that I was," Arias told jurors. "And for that, I'm going to be sorry for the rest of my life."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Convicted killer Jodi Arias thinks about a question during an interview at the Maricopa County Estrella Jail on Tuesday in Phoenix. Arias was convicted recently of killing her former boyfriend Travis Alexander back in 2008, and could face the death penalty. ROSS D. FRANKLIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cleveland

Rescued women 'happy and safe'

The three women rescued after being held captive in a house in Cleveland for about a decade want everyone to know they are doing fine and appreciate offers of help.

The message was relayed in a letter released Tuesday by their attorneys.

The letter said Amanda Berry, Gina DeJesus and Michelle Knight are happy and safe. A charity fund to help the women has raised more than $650,000 US from over 6,800 donors.

"These three brave women have asked us to give this message to everyone who has expressed concern and support," said the attorneys, who are representing the women for free. "Amanda, Gina and Michelle want you to know they are doing well. They are happy and safe and continue to heal, a process that requires time and privacy.

"To have complete strangers offer loving support in the form of money, goods and services, reaching out to help like a family member, is appreciated in ways that are impossible to put into words."

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Man hacked to death in London knife attack

A tent is erected near the scene of an attack in London on Wednesday. A British official says the violent attack near a London barracks is being investigated as a possible terrorist act. ALASTAIR GRANT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two suspects hospitalized. British PM says there are 'strong indications' it was a terrorist incident

In a brutal daylight attack that raised fears that terrorism had returned to London, two men with butcher knives hacked another man to death near military barracks Wednesday before police wounded them in a shootout.

In a shocking video broadcast on British TV, one man gestured with bloodied hands, waving a butcher knife in the air and shouting political statements against the British government as pedestrians stood nearby a body lying motionless on the street. Bloodstains coated the street.

British officials said the attack appeared to be an act of terrorism, possibly motivated by radical Islam.

The two suspects remained hospitalized on Wednesday but their identities and that of their victim were not known. One of them was reported to be in serious condition.

French President Francois Hollande, speaking at a press conference in Paris, said it was a British soldier who was killed. British Prime Minister David Cameron didn't immediately confirm that fact.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boston Marathon. Man shot to death during FBI probe into bombing

A Chechen immigrant was shot to death by authorities while being questioned in the Boston Marathon bombing case early Wednesday after he lunged at an FBI agent with a knife, officials said.

Ibragim Todashev, a 27-year-old mixed martial arts fighter, was gunned down at his home during a meeting with the agent and two Massachusetts state troopers, authorities said. The agent was taken to a hospital with injuries that were not life-threatening.

The FBI gave no details on why they were interested in Todashev. But acquaintances said Todashev knew one of the Boston Marathon bombing suspects, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, from mixed martial arts fighting.

Tsarnaev was killed in a shootout with police days after the April 15 bombings. His brother, Dzhokhar, survived and is charged with carrying out the attack that killed three people and wounded more than 260.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghanistan

Suicide bomber kills anti-Taliban elder, 3 others

A suicide bomber on foot killed an anti-Taliban village elder and at least three others in a busy marketplace Wednesday in central Afghanistan.

Habibullah Khan was killed along with two bodyguards and a civilian bystander in the afternoon attack in Ghazni province's Moqur district, police said. At least 14 civilians were wounded, most of them shoppers and merchants.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Harper swears ignorance of $90K bailout of senator

First public comments. PM says he would have denied chief of staff's donation if consulted

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government deploys a vast early-warning communications system to warn of potential problems ahead.

But Harper insisted Wednesday that he learned about his right-hand man bailing out an embattled Conservative senator in much the same way as other Canadians did: by seeing it on the news.

"Immediately upon learning that the source was indeed my chief of staff, Nigel Wright, I immediately asked that that information be released publicly," Harper said at a news conference in Peru, the first time he's taken questions publicly on the scandal.

"Had I obviously been consulted, more importantly, I would not have agreed, and it is obviously for those reasons that I accepted Mr. Wright's resignation."

Wright quit on Sunday as details emerged on him giving Sen. Mike Duffy $90,000 to repay what he improperly expensed for housing. Duffy quit the Conservative caucus last Thursday.

The scandal is under investigation by the federal ethics commissioner; Duffy's expenses in particular are being reviewed again by an internal Senate committee.

The payment allowed Duffy to stop co-operating with the external audit of his expenses. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stephen Harper said he is "extremely angry," but the mess was dealt with promptly. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Senate review

Passage cut in report

The Tory-dominated, closed-door Senate committee studying Mike Duffy's improper housing expenses deleted reference to his failure to co-operate with external auditors before releasing its report.

Another section, which called the language explaining residence rules "unambiguous," was also deleted — but stayed in the reports on other senators.

Duffy, meanwhile, said he's pleased the same committee will be reviewing his expenses once again. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto mayor's brother condemns crack craze

Mayor Rob Ford stayed silent on Wednesday. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rob Ford's staunchest supporter attempted on Wednesday to quell the controversy raging around Toronto's mayor over his alleged use of crack cocaine by citing his record in office and blasting the media.

"Rob is telling me these stories are untrue, that these accusations are ridiculous," said Coun. Doug Ford.

"And I believe him."

Ford did little to douse the flames sparked by reports last week from the website Gawker and Torstar News Service. They say the mayor appears to have been caught on video smoking crack and making homophobic and racist remarks.

The mayor's only comments came Friday, when he briefly called the allegations "ridiculous" and suggested Torstar was out to get him.

Instead, Doug Ford lauded his brother's achievements — such as balancing the budget — before lashing out at the media.

He accused reporters of going on a witch hunt, reserving his harshest criticism for Gawker.

"What you are doing is disgusting," Ford said. "Giving away prizes to try to raise money for drug dealers and extortionists is disgraceful."

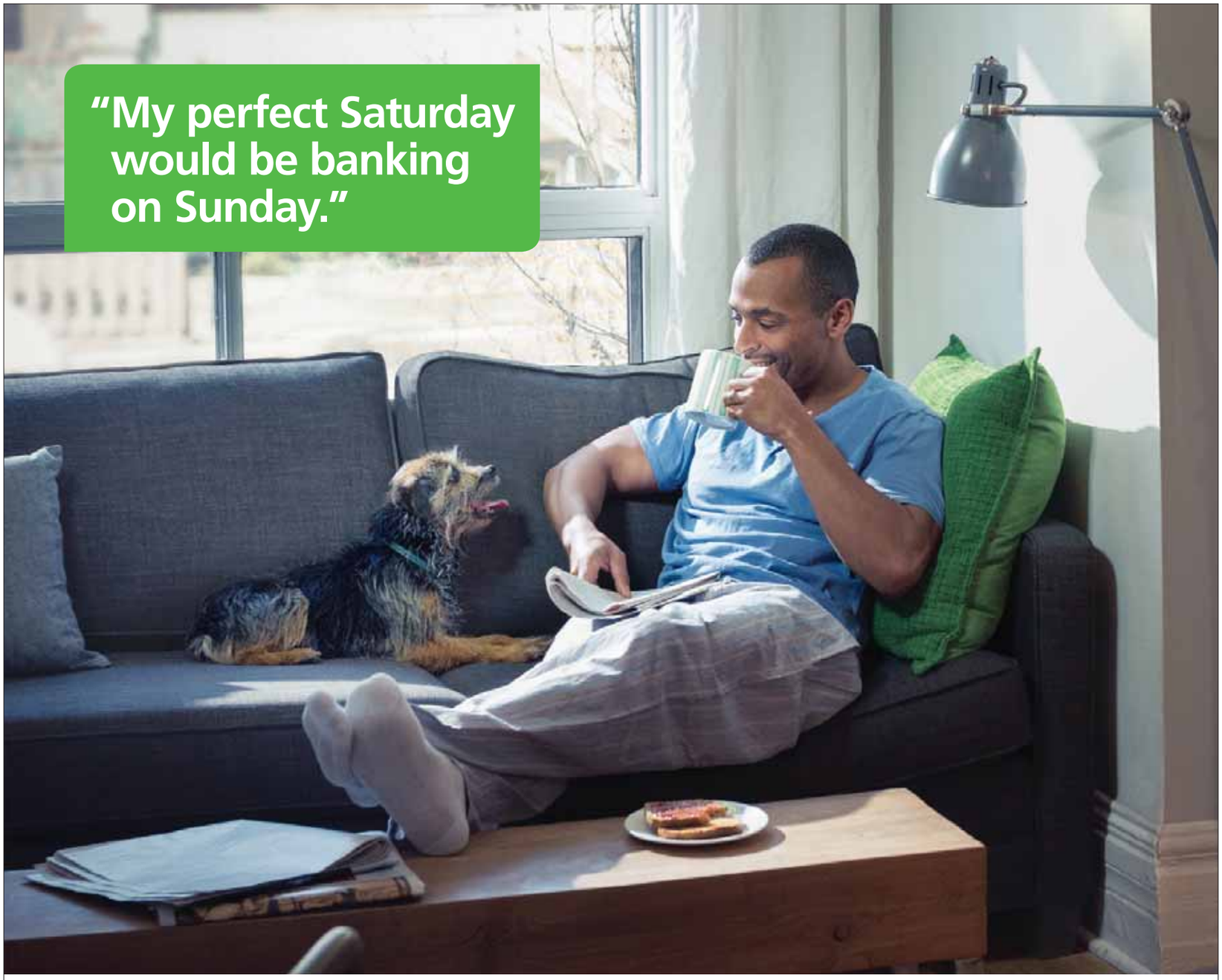
Gawker has been trying to raise $200,000 to buy and post the video, reportedly being shopped around by a west-end drug dealer.

"Never has a Canadian politician, or his family, been targeted by the media this way," Ford said. "They zealously stalk my mother, my children — the media hides in the bushes at our cottage." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kicked off the team

In another blow Wednesday, the Toronto District Catholic School Board dropped the mayor as volunteer football coach of the Don Bosco Eagles.

- Ford allegedly disparaged the players in the video.
- The board made no reference to the drug allegations in a statement.



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Eatery's owners show how not to behave online

Social media. Arizona restaurateurs' poor conduct highlights the importance of dealing with negative reviews

It was the customer service disaster heard around the Internet.

A Scottsdale, Ariz., restaurateur, fed up after years of negative online reviews and an embarrassing appearance on a reality television show, allegedly posted a social media rant laced with salty language and angry, uppercase letters that quickly went viral last week, to the delight of people who love a good Internet meltdown.

"I AM NOT STUPID ALL OF YOU ARE," read the posting on the Facebook wall of Amy's Baking Co. in Scottsdale, Ariz. "YOU JUST DO NOT KNOW GOOD FOOD."

Amy's Baking Co. in Scottsdale, Ariz., temporarily closed after an episode of Kitchen Nightmares aired. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It was, to put it kindly, not a best-business practice. Add to that an appearance earlier this month on the Fox reality TV show Kitchen Nightmares — where celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay gave up on trying to reform the restaurant after the owners refused to listen to his advice — and you have a recipe for disaster.

"That's probably the worst thing that can happen," said Sujan Patel, founder and CEO of Single Grain, a digital marketing agency in San Francisco.

In the evolving world of online marketing, where the power of word of mouth has been wildly amplified by the whims and first impressions of anonymous reviewers posting on dozens of social media websites, online comments, both good and bad, and the reactions they trigger from managers, can make all the difference between higher revenues and empty storefronts. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Real estate. Home-buying intentions remain relatively strong, bank report finds

A new report suggests nearly half of Canadian homeowners intend to buy a property in the next five years, despite a cooling off in the housing market.

The BMO Housing Confidence Report says the 48 per cent figure is mostly unchanged from late 2012, suggesting continued confidence in the housing market.

Among major cities, the report found a five-point gain in buying intentions in Vancouver while Calgary was down by 13 points.

Buying intentions in the Greater Toronto Area and Montreal have held steady, while Atlantic Canada has seen a 15 per cent jump in buying intentions.

The bank's report further suggests close to half of all homeowners under 40 intend to purchase a larger home within the next five years.

The BMO report by Pollara was based on online interviews with a random sample of 1,008 Canadian homeowners between Feb. 21-27. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The housing market slowdown hasn't had much impact on consumer buying intentions, a new BMO report says. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Economic impact

Housing slowdown could cost 150K jobs, group warns

Canada's housing market is slowing dramatically in terms of both sales and construction, dragging down economic growth and putting some 150,000 jobs at risk in coming years, the Canadian Association of Accredited Mortgage Professionals warns in its spring report. The group stops short of calling the slide that began about nine months ago a crash. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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Dow Jones: 15,307.17 (-80.41)

One-third of Canadians live paycheque-to-paycheque

Almost a third of Canadian households report never or almost never having any money left to save after paying their bills, according to a new study issued Wednesday.

Households that reported no wealth accumulation tended to be working, middle-aged people — although of varying income levels, says the study by the Certified General Accountants Association of Canada.

"They felt that their incomes were not keeping pace with the cost of living," said Rock Lefebvre, co-author of the study, which surveyed more than 1,800 people.

Consumer consumption, such the use of home equity lines of credit, were among things hurting the accumulation of wealth, Lefebvre said.

"This consumption pattern that has emerged over the last decade ... is playing havoc with people's ability to save," he said.

"Because of the low interest rates coupled with the behaviour of borrowing, people are possibly buying homes and cars that are a little more expensive than what they would typically be able to afford."

Meanwhile, two-thirds of households with no wealth accumulation — meaning the value of their assets was less or about the same as the amount of their household debt — didn't expect to get any further ahead in the next three years, the study said.

However, about 70 per cent of Canadian households reported they had accumulated some wealth.

But Lefebvre said the result may have been more of a "feeling" than an objective assessment of wealth.

"They could be saving $100 or they could be saving $100,000," said Lefebvre, vice-president of research and standards. THE CANADIAN PRESS

According to a new report, many Canadians say they have nothing left over for the piggy bank once their bills are paid. GETTY IMAGES FILE

By the numbers

$6,600

The report found that the wealth of an average Canadian adult was only $6,600 in 2012, or 2.7 per cent higher when compared to the wealth controlled by households at the beginning of 2008. It also found that only three in 10 households surveyed believed the accumulation of wealth was a very important personal goal.

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MY GOOGLE GLASS IS HALF EMPTY

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Attention early adopters: Google Glass is on its way, and the new wearable technology is going to completely revolutionize the way that humans irritate each other.

The computer/eyeglasses hybrid hasn't yet been released to the general public, but Google Glass is already at the centre of the great debate that accompanies the arrival of any major new technology.

Namely: Is it a force for evil, or for good?

Is Google Glass a further erosion of our privacy, like CCTV cameras or the mirror? Or is it a great tech leap forward, like the jump from Nintendo to Super Nintendo?

My best guess? Neither. There will be a few innovative uses, sure, and a few major misuses, and a totally disproportionate amount of porn.

But I suspect people who think there will be life-altering repercussions might find that there's a Glass ceiling to be hit.

I've seen the glasses described as "augmented reality," which seems like a bit much. It's not as if it will provide a holodeck-like experience, allowing you to walk the vast empty expanse of Google Plus in 3D.

Google Glass is, for all intents and purposes, just a hands-free iPad.

Which is why I say its major impact will be providing innovative ways for people to irritate each other.

Look deep into the crystal (display) ball and you'll see what I mean:

• First the general public will scoff at the early adopters standing in line on Opening Day, then the early adopters will roll their eyes a few months later as moms and dads buy each other Google Glasses for Christmas

• Eventually there will be different styles and capabilities of Google Glass, and they'll become status symbols, with each clique annoyed that the other owns the device for the "wrong" reasons. Presumably the hipster Google Glasses won't even have lenses.

• There will be some anti-Glass protest groups decrying the end of privacy. They will make many good points, but they'll also be so smug and self-important that you'll be glad their cause is hopeless.

• One moronic motorist will, say, drive into scaffolding while playing Angry Birds on his glasses, setting off numerous idiotic political debates that will accomplish nothing. A U.S. senator will say something about the glasses that show he has not used a new piece of technology since the Vic-20.

• Once the device is ubiquitous, it will be hard to tell whether random people are Googling, which means Google Glass will combine the phone app annoyance of being ignored, with the phone call frustration of hearing only half a conversation.

In short, these new Portable Annoyance Devices, or eyePADs, will be deeply irritating at times. But they're not going to hasten the end of civilization, either, and you'll probably own one eventually.

Like all technology, Google Glass will only be as good or as bad as the humans who wield it. So we probably are doomed. But only to disappointment. Google Glass half full?

ZOOM

These automatic flowers will do

LAURA HENDRIKS/WIM NOORDUIN

Microscopic crystals bloom in beaker

Scientists at Harvard University have been able to grow microscopic crystals into dainty "flower" structures on a beaker of chemical fluid.

Dr. Wim Noorduin and his team at the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) found they can control the growth behaviour of crystals to create intricate molecular objects. Two chemical compounds are dissolved in water in a simple glass beaker.

As CO_2 enters the beaker from the air, it triggers reactions that result in forming microscopic objects, a process that takes up to four hours.

"By manipulating the mixture's conditions, like adding some acid or kitchen salt, a large diversity of shapes — from vases to corals — can be made," says Noorduin.

"When zooming in using an electron microscope, you see that inside the beaker a vast landscape of complex, sculpted microstructures has evolved in which you can get completely lost. It really feels like you are diving in an alien coral reef," he added. METRO

Petals in zoom

50

micrometres (0.00005 metres) is the size of one "flower" — equivalent to the width of six red blood cells, or smaller than the thickness of a bank note. While Noorduin admits that "there are no practical applications yet," making these aesthetically pleasing objects "moves towards the control that is required for many practical applications, such as optical materials and catalysts."

Click bait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

Just in time to start tabling your summer travel plans, a new gastro-site is helping connect tourists with local foods. Imagine Airbnb meeting Feastly, and you get the idea: Cookening.com is a site dedicated to matching eager chefs with hungry tourists (though locals are invited, too). Cookening doesn't have what you're looking for? Try these similar sites:

EatWith.com
Your taste buds will be tickled in New York, Spain and Israel with this site.

Kitchen.ly
This one transforms the dining experience by allowing users to register as cooks.

Eatfeastly.com
Chefs in Canada and the U.S. participate in this foodie frenzy.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Are you worried about Canada's reputation abroad because of Rob Ford?

@joshmcconnell: A prominent appearance on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart means we have made it. People know it is an outlier situation anyway.

@A_McDo: No, the world will soon return to never, ever thinking about Canada.

@NikkiLambTudico: I'm not worried. Firstly, he doesn't represent all of Canada. Second, no country is immune to idiotic politicians. #dimeadozen

@FrenchmanCanada: I'm more worried about the allegations being true.

"I don't care what they say about me as long as they spell my name correctly." - Canada

@RealMarcDunn: It's sad that one of the most diverse & wonderful cities elected a mayor who continues to exemplify everything Canada is NOT.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

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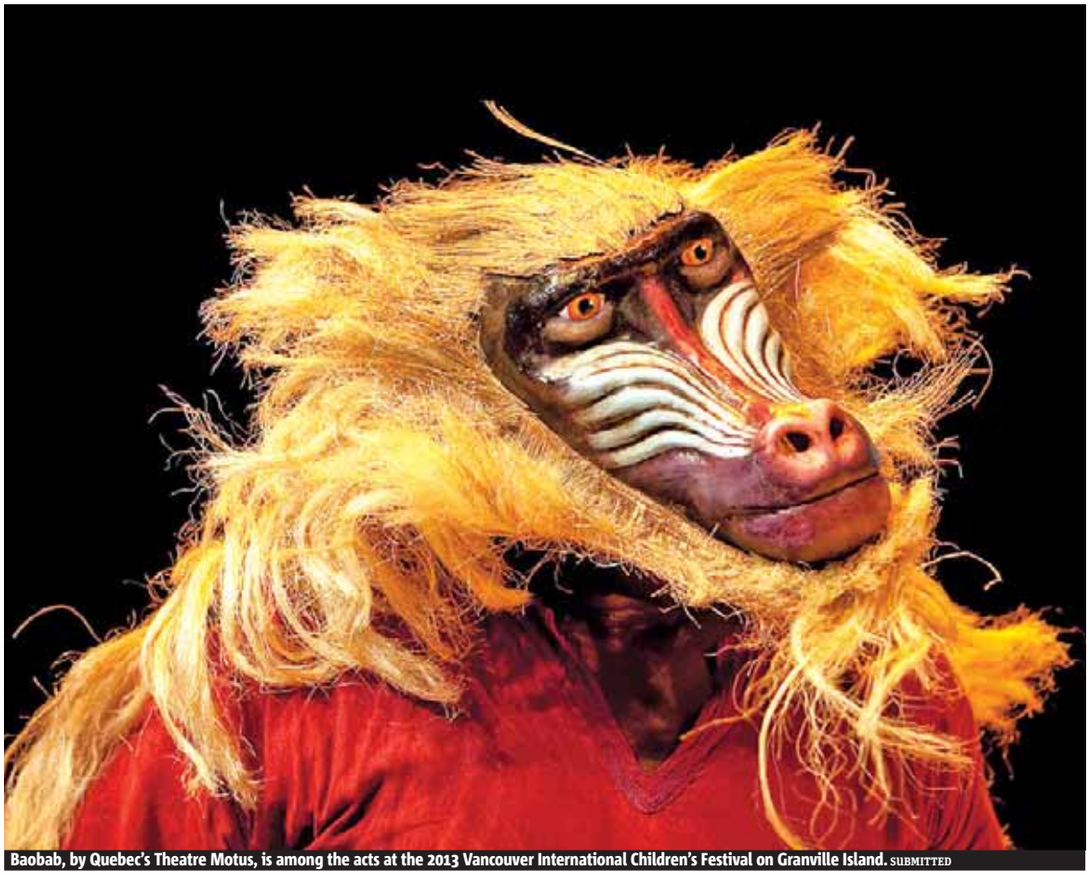
SCENE 2

It's spring ... and time to take the kids out to play

Vancouver International Children's Fest. Head to Grenville Island for family fun next week

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca



Baobab, by Quebec's Theatre Motus, is among the acts at the 2013 Vancouver International Children's Festival on Granville Island. SUBMITTED

Congratulations — you've survived another Canadian winter with the kids. Hey, at least you don't live in the eastern part of the country — those giant snowdrifts are going to make it tough to get to that outdoor pool with the family in tow.

Still, you might be running out of ideas for things to do, even here on the blissfully mild West Coast.

Luckily, the 2013 Vancouver International Children's Festival runs from May 27 to June 2 on Granville Island, and its program is jam-packed with theatre, music, dance, comedy, acrobatics, puppetry and more.

Juno-nominated duo Bobs @ Lolo are back with Nature Rocks! a high-energy sing-and dance-along.

African acrobatic troupe Cirque Zuma Zuma — from America's Got Talent fame — makes its Canadian debut this year, featuring jugglers, contortionists, acrobats, music and dance.

There's also Baobab, an African fable told via puppetry and live music by Quebec's Theatre Motus.

Many more featured performers, too. And plenty to do — like face-painting, making music with found objects, shadow puppetry, origami, sock puppets and plenty more — if you don't feel like shelling out the dough to go to specific shows.

Tickets on sale now. Featured performances $25 (adult); $15 (child). Variety show $25 (adult); $22 (child). Show tickets include access to onsite activities. For access to site activities only: $8 per person (sold onsite). All ticket prices include GST and service charges. Family packs and group rates available.

For more information, visit ChildrensFestival.ca.

54-40 or fight!

Hard to believe that 54-40 is still around. I mean, they've been around since I was, like 10 years old — and now I'm 42-43. Regardless, the band with legs plants them on the stage at the Commodore Ballroom later this year (Oct. 12) to celebrate more than 30 years of music. Tickets $32.50 (plus services) go on sale tomorrow at 10 a.m.

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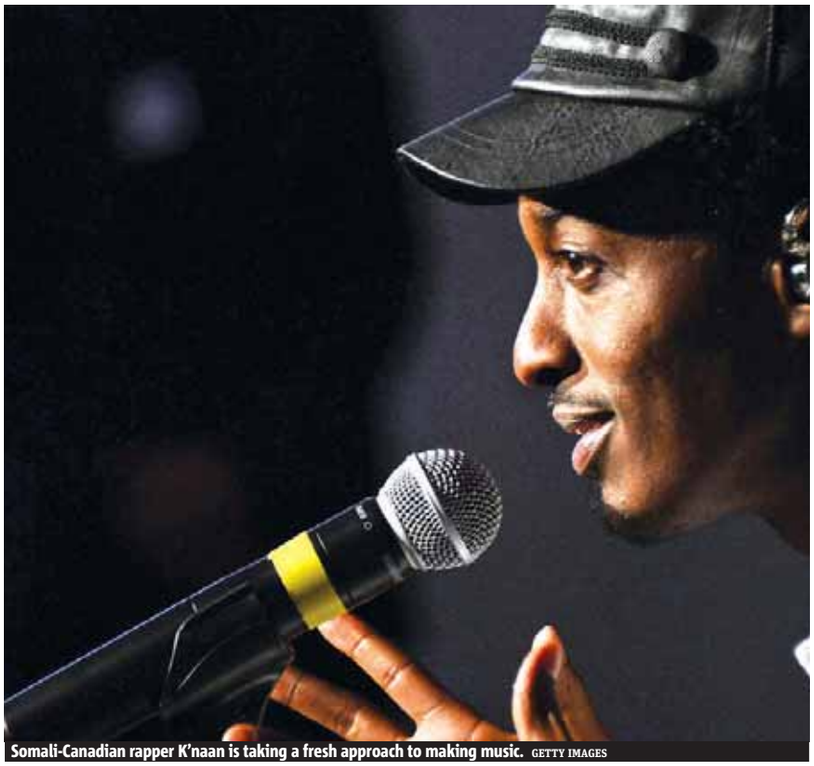

Somali-Canadian rapper K'naan is taking a fresh approach to making music. GETTY IMAGES

Waving a white flag on chasing his fame

Canadian music.
K'naan working on new songs after deriding 2012 album for chasing U.S. success in the wrong places

Somali-Canadian rapper K'naan says lingering disappointment over his last album is pushing him to write and release a new batch of songs. The Wavin' Flag musician says he's found renewed focus to "be honest" in his work, after playing it too safe with 2012's Country, God or the Girl.

K'naan says from Los Angeles that he's writing new material he hopes will be ready this fall.

His disdain for last year's disc was laid bare in a New York Times opinion piece published in December 2012.

K'naan began that 1,200-word article by saying: "Here is a story about fame," and went on to recount label pressure to cater his dense global rhymes to a pop-loving female, teenage U.S. audience.

K'naan, who draws much of his inspiration from his troubled homeland, now says he's been thinking a lot about the artist he wants to be and the kind of music he wants to make.

"It's a very instinctual album (there's), not a lot of mulling over it," K'naan says of the new songs.

"I just felt like I had to do things this time around that felt pretty urgent to me."

And he is hoping to get the material out into the world as soon as he can, he admits, largely because of regretful choices made with Country, God or the Girl.

"The rush is that I didn't really like that album so much, so I think that that's the experience — the reflection of the album I put out has caused me to put out another one," he says of last year's disc, which nevertheless earned respectable reviews.

"It's not even a mechanical thing; it's the urge to explain the dynamics of things and try to be honest about where I'm at, what my life is and also the difference between writing music that you could write and music that you should write."

In the Times piece, the rapper recounts meeting label executives to discuss how to keep his U.S. audience growing. Their main advice? Change his lyrics because "radio programmers avoid subjects too far from fun and self-absorption."

"And for the first time, I felt the affliction of success," K'naan writes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Take chances

These days he says he needs to "be honest about things and not necessarily be safe."

- **Quote.** "My previous work — with the exception of the last record — you wouldn't call those songs safe, you know," he continues. "They weren't structured around any kind of a pop success or idea around success. They were just what one thought they had to do or say. I think that's kind of like the journey I'm on at this point."

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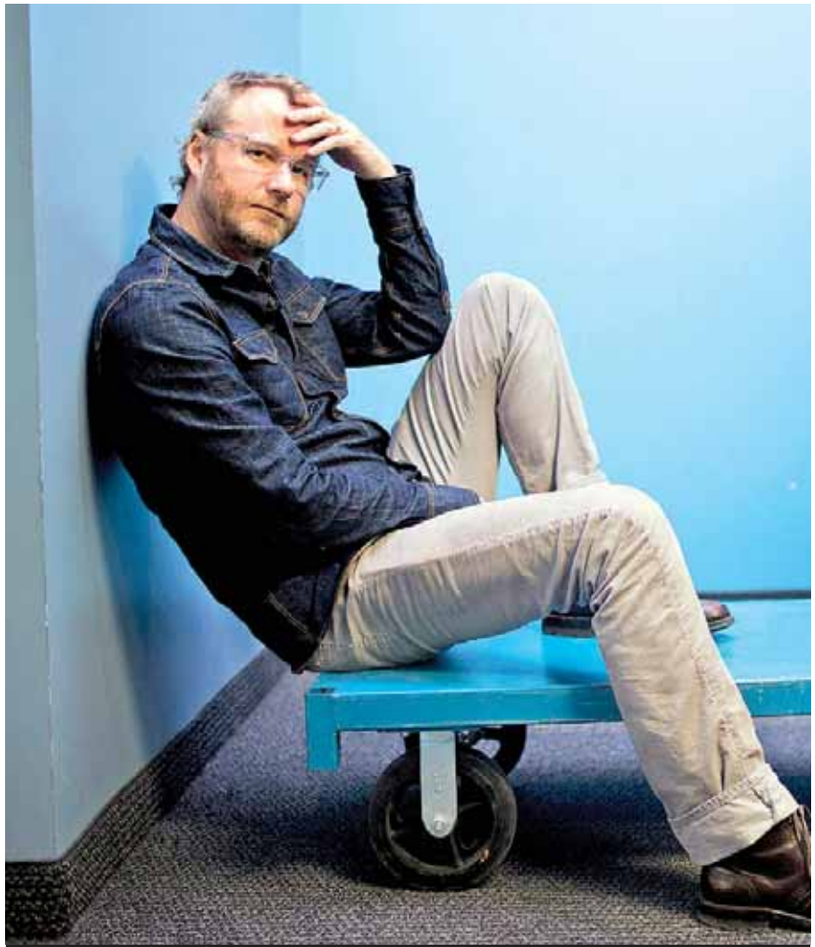

Matt Berninger, lead singer for The National, talks about the band's reputation. MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sad-sack singer strums his tune of resignation

Music. Indie-rockers the National argue against reputation for sad music and admit, at this point, there isn't much they can say to change opinions

Quote

"It became clear that there's no way we were ever going to prove otherwise."

Matt Berninger
Talking about how The National has stopped trying to convince people about what kind of band they are.

The National's frontman Matt Berninger has heard so many times in so many ways that his band's songs are sad that it eventually became a bit of a bummer.

Even in resoundingly upbeat reviews the indie-rockers have amassed over the years, rock scribes have dug deep for new and creative ways to describe the band's admittedly moody tunes. Rolling Stone recently referred to the Cincinnati-reared, Brooklyn-based rockers as "indie-rock sadsters" and "first-rate gloom-raiders" while Berninger himself has been singled out by the L.A. Times for finding "100 shades of morose" and by Entertainment Weekly as sounding "badly in need of Paxil." In some cases, those statements were meant as compliments.

And Berninger, the soaring singer with the expressive baritone as deep as the ocean floor, has learned to stop being irritated by the feedback.

"For a long time, we tried to fight against the idea that we're a sad, depressing band — and I've never thought of us that way — but it became clear that there's no way we were ever going to prove otherwise," he said.

And yet, he quickly glides into a familiar argument against the band's apparently suffocating somberness.

"I think it has the opposite effect for most people who pay attention," said the thoughtful frontman. "Because singing about melodrama and sadness and depression and romance and social anxieties and whatever they are, have been my ways of embracing them and kind of making something fun out of them and helping me deal.

"The songs about that stuff, I find them to be very soothing and leave me feeling the opposite way, leave me feeling relieved. I think most people who pay attention to our band and have followed us don't think of us as depressing and think of us as the opposite too. But on a cursory level, yes, our songs are not light pop songs."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

French electronic duo Daft Punk keeps robot image, try new sound

New album. There are mixed reviews for Random Access Memories as the dance music crew tries to expand musically with fourth album

It's tempting to say Daft Punk has gone Hollywood. The influential French electronic duo crafted its first film score, for Tron: Legacy, three years ago and are now releasing a well-financed, smartly-hyped pop album featuring what they call an ensemble cast of contemporary singers and veteran musicians.

There's long been a showbiz bent to the work of Thomas Bangalter and Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo, who for the last 13 years have hidden their faces in public appearances by wearing robot helmets and costumes. Bangalter compares the mystique-building masks — echoed by musicians including Deadmau5 and MF Doom — to an ever-evolving comic book superhero who starts as a side story "then maybe 50 years later it becomes like a big franchise movie in Hollywood."

Yet Daft Punk's new album Random Access Memories isn't the special effects-filled summer blockbuster you might expect. The group that helped popularize electronic dance music in the United States has used almost exclusively live instrumentation on the 13 songs, many modeled on the easygoing groove of late 1970s pop and disco. At a time when drum machines and urgent computer-generated chords dominate the charts, Daft Punk went the opposite direction.

"Human voices in pop music are becoming more and more robotic," Bangalter said. "(The album) is a robotic project and a technological one that is trying to get more and more human."

Like film directors

They started with several days of jam sessions in Los Angeles, then spent four years layering sounds, editing, rearranging and re-recording.

- **Quote.** Bangalter compares the duo to a film director "shooting for months and months, stopping sometimes to do reshoots and then lots of editing."

Through arranger Chris Caswell, the group linked up with players who could evoke their favourite music from Chic, early Michael Jackson, Steely Dan, Fleetwood Mac. Chic's Nile Rodgers, drummer JR Robinson and bassist James Genus lay the musical bed for vocalists including Julian Casablancas, Panda Bear from Animal Collective and Pharrell. It's a long way from the two-man home studio productions that defined the first three Daft Punk albums.

"Making music with musicians and bringing back a certain craftsmanship, that was totally unfamiliar for us. It was somehow a certain fantasy," Bangalter said. "It's funny because it was somehow a luxury to be able to do that. But at the same time it was not a comfortable position."

Early response has been mixed to the hotly anticipated album, which streamed on iTunes prior to Tuesday's release. "This album makes me not like L.A.," DJ-producer Diplo tweeted. "These guys are way smarter then me. I'm definitely missing something." Billboard called the album "messy" but said it was "fantastic to hear these masterminds trying again," while Pitchfork praised its musicianship and "amazing level of detail."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Daft Punk's new album Random Access Memories is getting mixed reviews after being released earlier this week. MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Jessica Walter returns as the booze-fueled matriarch Lucille Bluth on Arrested Development. HANDOUT

Get her a vodka rocks, Lucille Bluth is back and ready to go

Arrested Development. Jessica Walter's 50-year acting career has entered a renaissance, and she's grateful for it

TODD GILCHRIST
Metro World News

By her count, Jessica Walter has been a member of the Screen Actors Guild for 50 years, a period of time that encompasses a vast body of work — dramatic (Grand Prix), suspenseful (Play Misty For Me), supernatural (Dr. Strange) and, most recently, comedic (Archer). But for Walter, the forthcoming return of Arrested Development offers a reassuring reminder that her career has transcended not just different genres, but different generations.

"Certainly demographically, there are probably people who thought I was dead," Walter says candidly. "I have people that are my age and older who know who I am, who remember some of my work from the old days, and then I used to get, 'Wow, my mother really likes you.' Then I'd get, 'My grandma really likes you.' And now I get 'I really like you!' So how can I be unhappy about that?"

According to Walter, who plays boozy matriarch Lucille Bluth, virtually every line of dialogue in the 15 new episodes creator Mitchell Hurwitz wrote has a double (or even triple) meaning, much like those in the 53 episodes of the show that were broadcast during its three seasons on Fox. But because each episode now focuses on a different character, instead of simply following Jason Bateman's Michael Bluth, conversational contexts shifted frequently — a change that provided a considerable challenge for Walter and her co-stars as they navigated their way through Hurwitz's latticework of plot strands and one-liners.

No writer's block here

"The thing about our show, which I think you probably realize from watching it, is that the writing is so character-specific."
Jessica Walter
On Arrested Development.

"We didn't know a whole lot, a lot of the time, which makes it much more difficult," she admits. "In the end, it all worked out, but it's a strange way to work because you don't have all of the materials."

Still, the actress says she slipped easily back into the role, even after a seven-year hiatus between the show's cancellation and its rebirth on Netflix.

"The thing about our show, which I think you probably realize from watching it, is that the writing is so character-specific," she observes. "Once I heard Tony (Hale's) voice and once I saw him, there he was with the hook and his pathetic demeanor, he was my little Busty again."

Between Lucille on Arrested Development and Mallory Archer on Archer, Walter finds herself in the midst of a remarkable career renaissance, a fact she's grateful for, regardless of whether people know her prior to playing these cantankerous, irresistibly manipulative mothers.

"I'm so glad they think of something," she says humbly.

"At my age I'm privileged that they think of something, so it doesn't bother me a bit if they think of me as Lucille. And people have been really nice — they don't seem to think of Lucille as horrible, thank God. But as long as they're thinking of me, it makes me happy."

Available at Walmart

Kristen Stewart PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

KStew and RPattz: Never, ever getting back together?

In the wake of her split from Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart is apparently seeking the counsel of a pal who's something of a breakup specialist. The Twilight star was spotted heading to Taylor Swift's Beverly Hills home earlier this week, according to PopSugar. Stewart reportedly "spent all day there" before heading home. This comes after Pattinson was seen removing his possessions and dogs from Stewart's house. "She tried, they both tried," a source tells Us Weekly of the split. "They're both good people. It was just not the right thing for either of them right now."

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt

Brad and Angie: Still gaga

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie aren't afraid to show their affection for each other — even if their kids protest, to hear Pitt's pal, Frank Pollaro, tell it. "Once I walked in and Angie was standing there and Zahara walked up and said, 'Daddy, you're not going to start making out with Mommy again, are you?'" Pollaro tells Esquire. "And it's like that. This is a guy who has tried not to do any sexy scenes with other women since he's met Angelina. He's crazy about her, and she's the same way about him."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Things just got 'real' for this housewife

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

The Real Housewives of the OC star Tamra Barney joins the ranks of Bethenny Frankel and Kim Zolciak as Housewives who have gotten their own Bravo show. The divorced mother of four's new show will centre around her wedding to fiancé Eddie Judge, which will be held this summer in California. The two are then opening a gym together (of course they are).

So far, the show has no title, but the spin-off is a no-brainer, according to RadarOnline. "For Bravo, she has it all: the romantic storyline of getting married, for a third time, the drama with the other OC Housewives and she'll inevitably be a beautiful bride, when she walks down the aisle," a source tells the site.

Twitter

@ABFoundation
When I am in Europe, I realize how behind the rest of the world the US is vis a vis renewable energy...

@MissKellyO
I swear to god I have spent the better part of a day staring at the wall the antibiotics the DR put me on are so strong!

@sethrogen
I finally joined Facebook! To make up for lost time, I made a tutorial vid showing how to roll a CROSS JOINT!

Will Smith

Is Will Smith going to get jiggy with Kanye West?

Will Smith may be heading back to the music world, and if he does we have Kanye West to thank.

"I've been messing around with Kanye," Smith tells HipHollywood.com.

"We went in the studio a couple times, so I might get the bug. I'm not going to do it unless I'm truly inspired, but (Kanye has) been pushing me a little bit."

Smith has not released any music since 2005.

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Double-duty denim

This spring, denim comes in patched looks that are one part '60s hippie and one part '90s grunge (with a touch of '80s Marty McFly)

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News in London

3.1 Phillip Lim
Chambray pants, $425, netaporter.com

Madewell
Two-tone chambray shirt $88, madewell.com

Reiss
1971 Robbie shirt $170, reiss.com

Zara
Jeans, $80, zara.com

MiH
Jeans, $235 netaporter.com

Real world application

A test run

Every season offers a new interpretation of denim, some easier to pull off than others.

Last year's look — those ubiquitous leopard spots — were harmless and versatile. But this season brings some more challenging fare — neon tie-dye anyone?

On the surface, two-tone jeans look like they'd be dangerous, placing you in ironic, hipster, try-too-hard territory. But they're actually versatile, striking a good balance between right-now and still-stylish-later.

I chose a pair by the British label Made in Heaven because they did just that, plus, they're just skinny enough without preventing one's ability to breathe. I wore mine with a graphic blouse, tailored coat and pumps, an outfit that successfully took me from the office to dinner with friends afterward.

KENYA HUNT, MWN

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After keeping a close eye on the interiors of Mad Men and Downton Abbey, a chic bar cart is a staple furniture item, whether you live in a modern home or a traditional estate. Having a handy roll away cart to entertain is an impressive way to serve up cocktails. Here's a lineup of brass drink carts — from traditional to modern in style. Not since the '60s and '70s have we seen brass so chic. And although we may consider gold metal tones as traditional, we now have a whole new appreciation for this tone of metal.

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

5 reasons why the brass bar cart is making a return

Liberations Bar Cart

Simple industrial cart design gets glamourized with rubbed brass and leather. $775, crateandbarrel.com

Beckett Bar Cart

Reminiscent of a sturdy serving cart from a European hotel. $1,240, williams-sonoma.com

San Miguel Trolly

Faux-bamboo detailing and bumper-front curves will keep the traditionalists happy when entertaining. $700, bombay.ca

Milo Bar Cart

1950's modern style adds clean lines to the bar service and is the perfect addition to the mid-century modern condo. $950, restorationhardware.com

Connaught Antique Brass Bar Cart

Scaled-down size makes the perfect cart to be used for serving drinks or in a master bath to hold towels. $1,600, upcountry.com

Questions for your real estate lawyer

Preparations. You're buying a new home and need some help from a lawyer — what are you going to ask?

Visiting a lawyer is often reserved for major life milestones, such as purchasing a home.

It is always best to have that contact as early as possible in the home buying process, even before you sign the agreement of purchase and sale, to benefit most from your lawyer's information, advice and insights.

"Since this is typically an infrequent event for most Canadians, it's important that you have an open and fruitful conversation with your lawyer as soon as possible," says Ray Leclair, vice president of public affairs at LAWPRO. "Make sure that you provide your real estate lawyer with all the facts, including your plans and reasons for selecting the property you would like to buy. This will ensure that all potential issues are addressed."

Be ready to ask questions, such as:

- Have all building permits and final inspections been obtained for the home?
- Should you get a new property survey?
- Should you buy title insurance? What does title insurance do for you?
- Which due diligence searches will be undertaken and which will not? Why?
- Would you benefit from an alternate home ownership arrangement where you split ownership with a co-owner, based on your family situation?
- Will you need permits or other legal approvals to renovate/add to your home or another property?
- Is anything preventing you from renting out a part of your home or running a business from your home?
- What is power of attorney, and should you have one?
- Should you have a will prepared, now that you will own a major asset?

With this first conversation under your belt, it is important to develop a good relationship and regular contact with your lawyer. They can provide valuable insights and ensure you make educated decisions.

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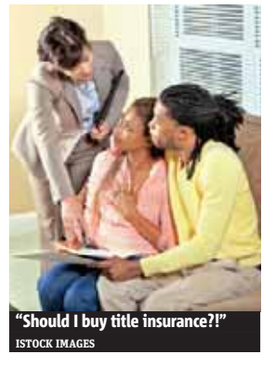

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Designing the city's smallest urban space: the condo balcony

Get outside.
Make the most of your balcony with tips from expert landscape architects

For many condo owners their balconies are personal escapes from the hustle and bustle of city life. These compact outdoor spaces, however, are often overlooked and underused.

To help condo owners make the most of their private outdoor spaces, Toronto developer Reserve Properties enlisted the expertise of two of the city's most prominent landscape architects.

Scott Torrance, designer of the West Toronto Railpath, and David Leinster of The Planning Partnership came up with ways to transform urban balconies.

Taking inspiration from their urban design and green roof projects in Toronto, they developed two unique balcony concepts for 109OZ, a mid-rise condo project in Toronto.

From a sleek outdoor kitchen garden to a relaxing Muskoka cottage escape, both balcony designs offer furniture selection that allows for diverse configurations and terrace layouts to accommodate a range of balcony sizes.

Scott Torrance's al fresco Kitchen Garden

Rethinking the idea of a garden from an urban perspective, Torrance's kitchen garden design offers the condominium dweller a chance to grow, prepare and eat their meals in a lush outdoor garden.

"I wanted to turn people on to the idea of urban gardening by making it simple and accessible," says Torrance.

In his design, condo owners can conveniently grow herbs, vegetables or ornamental plants in self-contained multi-function cedar and steel planters. One of the planters also doubles as a functional tabletop for food prep and serving. To help maximize garden views Torrance suggests planting wild grasses that are easy to maintain and keep well during winter.

To complete the outdoor kitchen, Torrance's design is outfitted with a lightweight boulevard table and bistro-style café chairs. A chic Chilewich floor runner and quick-dry lounge chair create an inviting lounge space.

For added privacy, a stainless steel trellis can be used to support multiple configurations of hanging pots along with climbing flowering plants and ivy from spring to fall.

Scott Torrance's kitchen garden concept was designed to offer 109OZ purchasers garden views not typically found in an urban condo setting. RESERVE PROPERTIES

David Leinster brings the cottage to the city

Influenced by the idea of escaping to the cottage for the weekend, Leinster created a Muskoka-themed balcony design for 109OZ.

A contemporary cottage feel is achieved by pairing an aged-dock underfoot with an eclectic mix of furnishings, like comfortable lounge chairs and a custom day-bed with pillows.

The dining area features a crisp, white, thin-slat table-top and casual dining chairs. Teak cubes double as a coffee table or impromptu seating for visiting friends.

"The eclectic blend of finishes and furnishings is what makes cottage life so welcoming," says Leinster who suggests accessorizing with things you have around the house, like mason jars, to complete the look.

Leinster uses planters with a northern granite finish, reminiscent of the Canadian Shield, for hardy grasses and seasonal plantings. Northern Ontario herbs hanging in terra-cotta pots on a custom designed trellis, and a compact element grill create a rustic cooking space.

Portable LED lighting is used to provide a warm glow for evening activities.

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Why size really doesn't matter — at least in the backyard

Summer style. With a few strategic choices, your small yard can still have a large design

Drapery panels are added to this small outdoor porch to emphasize the house's tall ceiling, minimize its narrow dimensions and give the space privacy from neighbours. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/BRIAN PATRICK FLYNN/HAYNEEDLE.COM

Design magazines and home decorating catalogues tend to feature sprawling backyards with big wooden decks and room for everything from decorative fountains to artificial ponds.

But few of us have that much outdoor space. You can create something truly special out of even the smallest yard or porch, says Los Angeles-based designer Brian Patrick Flynn.

Here, he and two other design experts — small-space specialist Kyle Schuneman and landscape designer Chris Lambton — offer advice on the best furnishings, plants and decorating strategies for making the most of a small yard, modest deck or petite patio.

Go flexible and mobile

"With a small outdoor space, I really like to think double duty," says Schuneman, author of "The First Apartment Book: Cool Design for Small Spaces" (Potter Style, 2012). Look for seating that has hidden storage space inside and tall planters that add privacy.

And choose items that can easily be moved, such as lightweight flowerpots or planters on wheels, says Lambton, host of the gardening design series Going Yard on HGTV. "It's an easy DIY thing," he says, to buy an assortment of inexpensive plastic pots and paint them to match your outdoor decor.

If planters are lightweight or on wheels, you can move them to get proper sunlight at different times of day, and rearrange them if you're entertaining guests and need more space.

Choose the right furniture

"The easiest way to make small outdoor spaces appear smaller is to fill them with lots of pieces," says Flynn, founder of the design website decordemon.com.

"Instead, go big with sectionals, or flank perfectly square or rectangular areas with identical love seats or sofas. This not only maximizes the seating potential, but it also keeps the space from becoming too busy or even chopped up. In my outdoor living room, I used a U-shaped outdoor sectional, which seats up to seven comfortably."

When arranging furniture, consider the view: If the home's exterior is more attractive than the outdoor view, Flynn says, consider positioning seats so that you'll face your home rather than looking away from it.

Plant wisely

All three designers say your choice of plants is especially important when space is limited.

Choose plants with a purpose: "Lavender's great," Lambton says, because it's attractive, easy to grow and deters bugs. Marigolds will also help keep insects away.

Lambton also suggests putting up a trellis as a privacy wall, and planting it with colourful wisteria or climbing hydrangea. Or choose a tall holly or cypress plant in a large planter.

"Holly will be green all year round," he says, and can help transform an unappealing view.

None of these plants are hard to take care of, Lambton says. "If you're having coffee in the morning, just go out and dump a little bit of water in."

Think vertically

If you love plants but have minimal space, add a wall-mounted garden filled with succulent plants to one wall, says Schuneman: "It's a great way to add life and texture without actually taking any real estate up on your small balcony or patio."

He also suggests using narrow planters to create "long, narrow, raised flower beds that go the length of the space." They provide room for plants to grow, while also creating a ledge that's "great for coffee cups or a casual lunch," he says.

Flynn suggests playing up the height of your space by adding long outdoor curtains or hanging pendant lights.

Drench with colour

"I usually paint concrete slabs (on the floor) a bold colour or an accent colour carried out from an adjacent room," Flynn says. "This helps the patio feel like an extension when you look out to it through a door. On the flip side, when seated out in the patio looking inward, the consistent use of colour flowing inside and outside makes the patio itself feel much more open."

Flynn also suggests using outdoor curtains for a burst of colour, and to block an unattractive view or hide items like electrical boxes and storage bins. "Outdoor draperies are, hands-down, the easiest way to soften an otherwise all-concrete and stucco space, while also being able to control how much or how little neighbours can see."

Or, he says, order a basic trellis from an online retailer like hayneedle.com, then "paint it a bold colour and use it to instantly make an outdoor space feel more room-like."

Create your own art

"Most people don't think of using art outside, but it can be done, especially in a DIY manner," Flynn says. "My favourite trick is to use tent canvas and stretch it across a DIY frame made from pressure-treated lumber, and add some gesso to the surface for texture."

Once you've created your canvas, he says, "pick up some exterior latex paint, then get as abstract, as you want to play with colour, shape and texture. Once the art is dry, add a sealer to protect it from moisture, then hang it up to create a focal point, and/or add another layer of privacy."

You can make any outdoor space more beautiful, Lambton says, with just a few hours of effort and a small investment.

"If you get two or three pots and a couple of bags of planting mix," he says, "it's easy to do for a couple hours on a Saturday. ... Just a little bit of colour and life will really dress up your outdoor space."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A narrow 14-foot by nine-foot outdoor space was turned into a full-fledged living room by designer Brian Patrick Flynn in his own home, by adding a pergola for shade and suspending outdoor pendant lights, separating the area from neighbours with a planter wall and using a U-shaped sectional for seating up to seven. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/BRIAN PATRICK FLYNN/HAYNEEDLE.COM

Designer advice

"The easiest way to make small outdoor spaces appear smaller is to fill them with lots of pieces."

Los Angeles-based designer Brian Patrick Flynn

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Bright signs of things to come

Neon resurgence.
After a mellow trend, zingy florescent hues roar back into not only fashion, but decor too

The neon brights that peppered the 1980s are back, in fashion and decor. Highlighter hues and glow-in-the-dark tints provide a shot of adrenaline after a few seasons of mellow, mushroomy colour palettes.

Of course, these colours aren't for everyone. But if you're ready to play, here are some fun options and expert advice on how to go sassy but stylish. Tanika Nayak, an interior designer and shelter-show host on HGTV and the Food Network, loves bright hues. She says the key is to make them look up-to-the-minute and not circa 1983.

"Use neon in small doses," she advises. "You don't want to blind anyone. My favourite use of neon is against a crisp white backdrop. In a dining room, start with a glass table, white walls and pop it with bold colourful neon dinnerware, placemats, and vases. If you dare to go even bolder, use neon print accent chairs." Nayak says balance is everything when working with these powerhouse hues.

Bright candle holders. AP/Z GALLERIE

"If you have a big, colourful personality and really want that bedroom or bathroom to glow, then go ahead and paint the entire room with your bold colour. But balance it with white, black, grey or even a pastel. For example, a bedroom painted in bold green neon can work if the bedding, rug and window treatments offset it with a calming white and/or a pale soft blue," she suggests.

Take the same tack with a bathroom; add light-coloured towels and mat to cool things down. HomeGoods (homegoods.com) has some well-priced accessories, like bright orange and green ottomans, a ceramic lamp in citrus, a large selection of colourful kitchen tools and mirrored decorative boxes.

Less is more

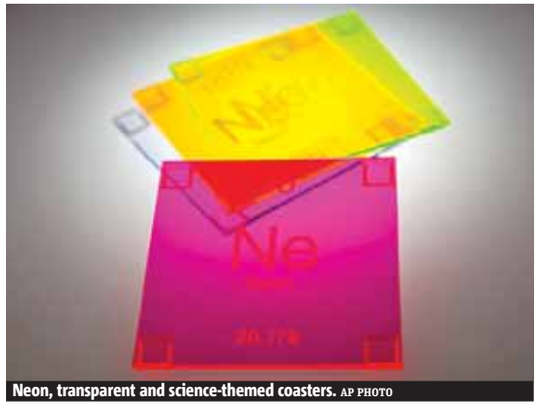
"Use neon in small doses. You don't want to blind anybody."
Tanika Nayak, HGTV interior design host
On how to use florescent hues

Meanwhile, Brooke Jones offers an array of tangerine-hued home accessories at her online shop (etsy.com/shop/juxtapositionsc). A little elephant and a set of dinosaur-topped jars are part of the collection. Jones says, "I want to make colour accessible to everyone. Painting a wall a bright colour might not be realistic, but people can still bring in that fun, bright pop of the unexpected through home accessories. I hope my work inspires people to take chances and not take decorating too seriously."

Los Angeles-based designer Byron Samayoa's laser-cut coasters embossed with elemental information were not initially intended to be neon acrylic. "My original idea was to start with a wood set and a clear acrylic set, but every time I went back to my samples, the neon ones always stood out from the rest." (shop.bplusshop.com)

Canadian textile artist Christine Skaley Reid works out of her studio in Mission, B.C., creating eclectic throw pillows in colour-banded and right-on-trend '70s-style floral prints. Fuchsia and pink set the trendy tone. (etsy.com/shop/pillowthrowdecor)

At Z Gallerie, find several great pieces in a zingy chrome yellow, including Mariposa candle holders and Pasadena picture frames, (zgallerie.com). And if you're up for outfitting your home office in some pumped-up hues, consider CB2's Go-cart furniture series, which includes a rolling cart, bookcase, task lamp and desk in vibrant yellow or orange powder-coated steel (cb2.com). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

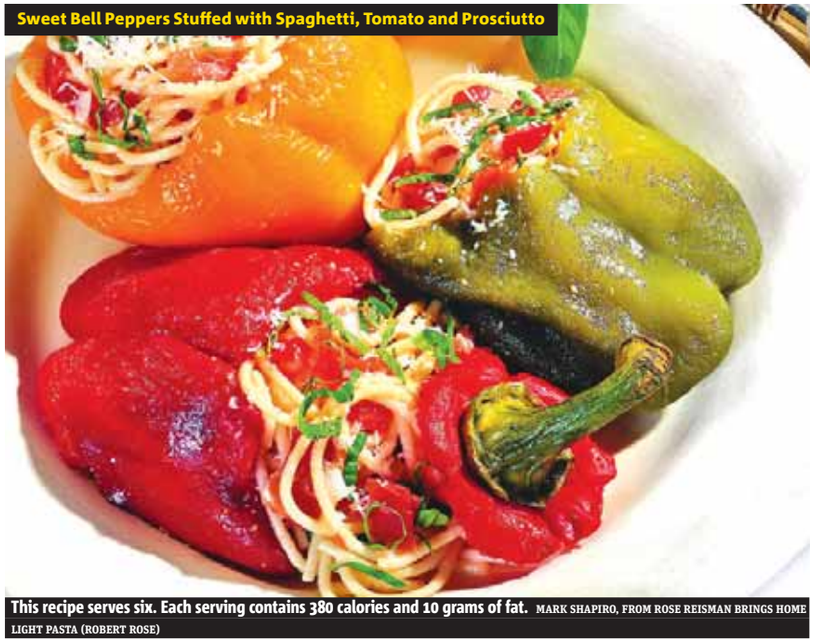


Neon, transparent and science-themed coasters. AP PHOTO

Bold multi-coloured picture frames. AP PHOTO/Z GALLERIE

Get the little ones chopping, stirring and stuffing dinner

Sweet Bell Peppers Stuffed with Spaghetti, Tomato and Prosciutto


This recipe serves six. Each serving contains 380 calories and 10 grams of fat. MARK SHAPIRO, FROM ROSE REISMAN BRINGS HOME LIGHT PASTA (ROBERT ROSE)

ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

This is a great vegetable or main course dish. The stock and milk sauce replaces traditional white béchamel sauces, which contain excess calories and fat.

1. Preheat oven to broil. Broil peppers in oven or grill for 15 minutes or until charred, turning often. Let cool for 5 minutes. Remove tops of peppers and save. Peel skin and de-seed, leaving whole pepper intact. This can be done under cool running water.

2. Cook pasta in boiling water according to package instructions or until firm to the bite. Drain and place in large bowl.

3. Make the sauce: In large nonstick skillet, heat oil; sauté garlic and onions until soft, approximately 3 minutes. Add tomatoes and cook for 1 minute.

4. Meanwhile, combine stock and flour in small bowl; add to tomato mixture and simmer just until sauce thickens slightly, approximately 3 minutes, stirring constantly. Pour over pasta; add basil, margarine, prosciutto and cheese. Mix well. Stuff peppers until full, saving remainder as a side dish. Place pepper top over pasta, to act as lid. ROSE REISMAN BRINGS HOME LIGHT PASTA (ROBERT ROSE) BY: ROSE REISMAN

Ingredients

- 6 medium sweet bell peppers (green, red and/or yellow)
- 12 oz spaghettini

Sauce

- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 2 tsp crushed garlic
- 3/4 cup diced onions
- 1 3/4 cups diced tomatoes
- 1 1/4 cups cold chicken stock
- 1 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil
- 1 tbsp margarine or butter
- 1/2 cup chopped prosciutto or ham
- 3 tbsp grated Parmesan cheese

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Canucks president and general manager Mike Gillis announces the firing of coach Alain Vigneault on Wednesday at Rogers Arena. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'The message has to change': Gillis

NHL. Canucks fire head coach Alain Vigneault after another early exit

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Wednesday marked the end of an era for the Vancouver Canucks.

The organization fired Alain Vigneault, the team's head coach for the past seven seasons, as well as associate coach Rick Bowness and assistant coach Newell Brown.

News about the decision to fire Vigneault and two members of his staff broke early in the afternoon — first announced on Twitter by Louis Jean of TVA Sports — well before the Canucks announced it.

The decision has been expected for a while now, ever since the Canucks were swept in the first round of the 2013 Stanley Cup playoffs by the San Jose Sharks, but the organization had remained silent on the coach's future for almost two full weeks.

This marked the second consecutive year the Canucks were eliminated in the first round.

In 2012, after winning the franchise's second consecutive Presidents' Trophy as the league's best regular-season team, the Canucks fell to the L.A. Kings in five games.

Two years ago, the Canucks, with Vigneault as the coach, were one win away from netting the first Stanley Cup in franchise history.

The team is now in a fall from grace, with general manager Mike Gillis promising at his season-ending press conference on May 9 that the franchise would be "reset."

"There comes a point in time where the message has to change and we have to be better," said Gillis on Wednesday during a press conference at Rogers Arena.

"We simply didn't get the result we expected, and in this business you have to get results."

Vigneault's tenure behind the bench for Vancouver began in 2006-07. That season, he guided the Canucks to a 49-26-7 record and a Northwest Division title. He was awarded the Jack Adams Award as the NHL coach of the year.

In 2010-11, Vigneault was behind the bench for the Canucks' first-ever Presidents' Trophy as the NHL's top regular-season team.

The Canucks went 54-19-9 in the regular season, before making it all the way to Game 7 of the Stanley Cup final.

Vigneault was behind the Canucks' bench for 540 regular-season games, with a record of 313-170-57, and six playoff appearances in seven seasons.

He is the first coach in franchise history to hit 300 wins.

Vigneault also maintained his job when Gillis was hired in April 2008.

"People have been after me since Day 1. They've been after Alain since Day 1. People wanted him five years ago. I kept him, and we worked well together and we achieved success," said Gillis.

Crawling out of the swamp

"We're at a point now in the evolution of this team and this organization where, in my mind, a change is required." Canucks GM Mike Gillis

No time frame for hirings

Canucks GM Mike Gillis said there is no time frame to find a new head coach.
"We're focused on getting the right person, moving ahead and executing a plan that we have that is going to get us back to the level we expect," Gillis said.

- The likes of Lindy Ruff, Scott Arniel, currently the bench boss with AHL Chicago, and Dallas Eakins of the Toronto Marlies have been floated around as replacements, at least by fans and media.

CFL

Former Lions Allen, Matthews bound for Wall at BC Place

A pair of CFL icons will now have their place on the B.C. Lions Wall of Fame, the team announced Wednesday.

Legendary head coach Don Matthews and quarterback Damon Allen will be added to the Lions' Wall of Fame during a halftime ceremony on July 20 against the Edmonton Eskimos.

"We are very pleased to welcome two of our most popular and accomplished alumni to the Wall of Fame," said Lions president and CEO Dennis Skulsky in a statement.

"As B.C.'s most successful professional sports organization, we are grateful for the accomplishments of these men and we are very proud to recognize them with this honour."

Matthews was the Lions' head coach from 1983 to 1987, and his 231 wins in 365 regular-season games ranks second of all time among CFL coaches.

Allen joined the Lions in 1996 and won a Grey Cup with B.C. in 2000. METRO

Soccer

National duty pulls Mattocks away from Whitecaps

The Vancouver Whitecaps will be without striker Darren Mattocks for a pair of upcoming regular-season games.

The local MLS side confirmed that Mattocks has been called up to the Jamaican national team for international duty, including three World Cup qualifying matches, and will miss Vancouver's regular-season games against the New York Red Bulls on June 1 and the Seattle Sounders FC in a derby match on June 8.

Mattocks will be available for Vancouver's upcoming Amway Canadian Championship final against the Montreal Impact on May 29.

Mattocks will then rejoin the Jamaican side following the ACC. METRO

Darren Mattocks GETTY IMAGES

Sidney Crosby and Craig Anderson collide behind the Senators' net on Wednesday night in Ottawa. JANA CHYTILOVA/FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

Sens shelled by sure-footed Pens

NHL playoffs. Pittsburgh opens floodgates as Neal and Iginla each score twice

James Neal and Jarome Iginla each scored two goals to lead the Pittsburgh Penguins to a 7-3 romp over the Ottawa Senators in Game 4 of their Eastern Conference semifinal series Wednesday — and just one win away from advancing to the next round of the Stanley Cup playoffs.

The Penguins now hold a 3-1 series lead heading into a pivotal Game 5 on Friday in Pittsburgh.

Game 4

Penguins	Senators
7	3

Chris Kunitz, Pascal Dupuis and Sidney Crosby each added a goal for the Penguins, while Milan Michalek, Kyle Turris and Daniel Alfredsson scored for the Senators.

The Senators got on the scoreboard early in the first period — and just like Sunday's double-overtime marathon win in Game 3, they did it the hard way.

With defenceman Sergei Gonchar in the penalty box, Alfredsson fed the puck up the middle to a streaking Michalek, who broke through the Penguins defence and beat Tomas Vokoun low on the glove side to notch Ottawa's second shorthanded goal of the series.

It was the Senators' first lead of the series. But it wouldn't last.

Ottawa lost a faceoff in its own end and Neal was there to pick up the loose puck in the slot and put it in the back of the net to tie the game at one goal apiece.

Down 2-1 early in the second, Pittsburgh tied it up when Kunitz snuck behind the Senators defence and went in alone to beat Craig Anderson. Less than a minute later, Anderson gave up a rebound on a Kris Letang shot that landed right on the tape of Iginla's stick to make it 3-2 Penguins.

The Penguins kept up the pressure, scoring another four goals to make it 7-2 before Alfredsson notched his 100th career playoff point with a power-play goal late in the third period. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Memorial Cup. Blades gashed by Hawks in third

The Portland Winterhawks scored three times in the third period Wednesday to defeat the Saskatoon Blades 4-2 in the final round-robin game at the MasterCard Memorial Cup.

With the score tied 1-1, Chase De Leo gave Portland the lead for good at 4:08 of the third when he jammed a loose puck past Blades goalie Andrey Makarov as the Winterhawks (2-1) clinched a spot in Friday's semifinal.

The host Blades (1-2) will now take on the London Knights (1-2) in Thursday's tie-breaker game. The winner of that one will meet Portland in Friday's semi. With the Winterhawks' victory, the Halifax Mooseheads (2-1) clinched a berth directly into Sunday's final at the tournament to decide the Canadian Hockey League champion.

Derrick Pouliot, Brenden Leipsic and Ty Rattie had the other goals for Portland, which got 29 saves from Mac Carruth. Nicolas Petan added two assists for the Western Hockey League champions.

Blades goalie Andrey Makarov watches a shot go by in the third. LIAM RICHARDS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Josh Nicholls, with a goal and an assist, and Shane McColgan replied for Saskatoon, while Makarov stopped 30 shots in taking the loss.

After De Leo scored to give Portland the lead in the third, Leipsic added a goal for Portland at 6:27, ripping a shot into the top corner past Makarov. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jays' Joey Bats blasts winner

Blue Jays right fielder Jose Bautista celebrates with teammates after hitting the game-winning single as Toronto defeated the Tampa Bay Rays 4-3 in 10 innings on Wednesday. Pitcher Mark Buehrle provided the quality start in the team's first walk-off win this season. DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NFL

Offences need fear Urlacher no longer

Brian Urlacher THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brian Urlacher wasn't sure how dominant he could be any longer, so he's calling it a career after 13 seasons with the Chicago Bears.

And what a career it was:

- Eight Pro Bowl seasons.
- Defensive Player of the Year in 2005.
- A trip to the Super Bowl as 2006 NFC champion.

And now, it's over. Urlacher announced his retirement on Twitter Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Coach K'

Dream Team to get some special news

Mike Krzyzewski has decided to remain coach of the U.S. men's Olympic basketball team.

Krzyzewski will try to lead the Americans to a third straight Olympic gold medal, a person with knowledge of the decision said Wednesday. Originally expected to step down, Krzyzewski will hold a news conference to confirm his return Thursday at Duke, the person told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because no official announcement has been made. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mike Krzyzewski GETTY IMAGES

Giro d'Italia

Visconti victorious in Stage 17

Giovanni Visconti won the 17th stage of the Giro d'Italia on Wednesday to claim another solo victory, while Vincenzo Nibali maintained his grip on the overall lead. Visconti also won Sunday's 15th stage with an impressive solo climb. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Golf

"I feel sick about it and I feel truly, truly sorry."

Sergio Garcia, who apologized to Tiger Woods Wednesday for saying Tuesday he would serve fried chicken if they were to have dinner at the U.S. Open, an ugly addition to nearly two weeks of verbal sparring. Garcia said he meant to give a funny answer to a playful question, but that it was "totally stupid and out of place."

Spur-ning the point guard mould

NBA Western Conference final. With performances like that in Game 2, Parker proving he can find balance between scoring and passing

Even if the San Antonio Spurs can't help but feel a touch uneasy about their 2-0 lead in the Western Conference finals, Tony Parker is completely comfortable.

For the second straight year, Parker used a sensational Game 2 to give the Spurs a two-game lead to start the conference finals. This time, it was a 15-point, 18-assist masterpiece against the Memphis Grizzlies that featured Parker scoring or assisting on 14 of the Spurs' 18 baskets after halftime.

Asked Wednesday if it was a performance reminiscent of John Stockton, the NBA's career assists leader, Parker said: "No, Tony Parker."

"I don't want to be anybody. I just want to have my own identity," he added. "I always fight with (coach Gregg Popovich) for that because he wanted me to be — no disrespect to Avery Johnson — but like Avery, and then like John. I was like, 'I want to be me.' I want to do both. I want to be aggressive, and I just try to find that balance.

"That's the thing through my whole career is to find the happy middle between scoring and passing."

Parker has already won three NBA titles with San Antonio and seemed to have the Spurs rolling toward another one last season when he scored 34 points on 16-for-21 shooting — and also dished out eight assists — in a 120-111 victory against the Oklahoma City Thunder in Game 2 of the West finals.

It was San Antonio's 20th straight win, a streak spanning seven weeks. And then — poof! — the season was over a week later following four straight losses to Oklahoma City.

That history puts this year's strong start to the series in a completely different perspective.

"We understand that we didn't do anything. We just protected home court and we have a long way to go because we know we're playing a very good team," Parker said. "People who know basketball, they know they are a very good team and you can't take anything for granted."

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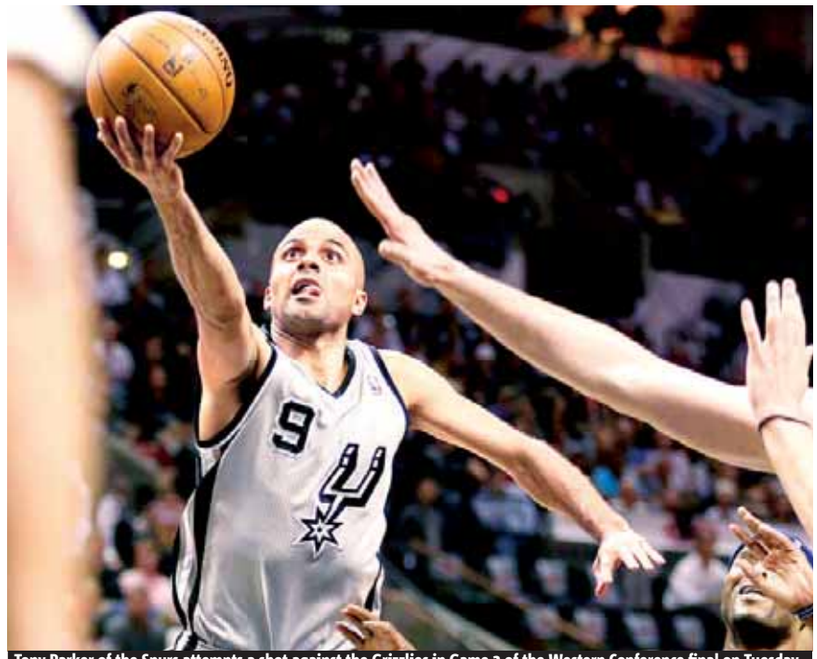
Rest days

Tony Parker informed reporters that he plans to use the three-day break before Game 3 on Saturday in Memphis to have an MRI on his troublesome left calf Thursday "just to make sure" he's improving on schedule.

- He said the knot that developed after he got kicked in the calf during the Golden State series was the biggest he's had in his career, but has been feeling better.



Tony Parker of the Spurs attempts a shot against the Grizzlies in Game 2 of the Western Conference final on Tuesday night in San Antonio. Parker scored 15 points and dished out 18 assists in the Spurs' win. ERIC GAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LeBron James hits the game-winning shot in overtime. GETTY IMAGES

NBA Eastern Conference final. LeBron's buzzer beater wins OT thriller

LeBron James made a layup as time expired in overtime, and the Miami Heat found a way to beat the Indiana Pacers 103-102 in a wild Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals Wednesday night.

James finished with 30 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for the Heat — his ninth post-season triple-double — and barely anyone noticed. All that mattered was the last shot, which simply saved the Heat.

Paul George made three free throws with 2.2 seconds left in the overtime, which he forced with a miracle 3-pointer, to give the Pacers the lead. But James — with Indiana shot-blocking centre Roy Hibbert curiously on the bench — just drove down the left side of the lane, scored with ease and the Heat escaped.

Game 2 is Friday night in Miami.

Wednesday's game featured 17 lead changes. Neither team led by more than seven points.

Wade scored 19 points, Chris Bosh had 17 and Chris Andersen had 16 on 7-for-7 shooting for Miami.

George scored 27 for the Pacers, who got 26 from David West and 19 from Hibbert. The Pacers have won only two series in franchise history after dropping a Game 1.

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NHL PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

(Best-of-7 series; All times Eastern)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

PITTSBURGH (1) VS. OTTAWA (7)

(Pittsburgh leads 3-1)
Wednesday's result
Pittsburgh 7 Ottawa 3
Friday's game
Ottawa at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.

BOSTON (4) VS. N.Y. RANGERS (6)

(Boston leads 3-0)
Tuesday's result
Boston 2 NY Rangers 1
Thursday's game
Boston at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CHICAGO (1) VS. DETROIT (7)

(Detroit leads 2-1)
Monday's result
Detroit 3 Chicago 1
Thursday's game
Chicago at Detroit, 8 p.m.

LOS ANGELES (5) VS. SAN JOSE (6)

(Series tied 2-2)
Tuesday's result
San Jose 2 Los Angeles 1
Thursday's game
San Jose at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

NBA PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE FINALS

(Best-of-7 series; All times Eastern)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

MIAMI (1) VS INDIANA (3)

(Miami leads 1-0)
Wednesday's result
Miami 103 Indiana 102 (OT)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SAN ANTONIO (1) VS MEMPHIS (5)

(San Antonio leads 2-0)
Tuesday's result
San Antonio 93 Memphis 89 (OT)
Saturday's game
San Antonio at Memphis, 9 p.m.

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	28	18	.609	—
Boston	28	19	.596	½
Baltimore	25	21	.543	3
Tampa Bay	24	22	.522	4
Toronto	19	27	.413	9

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	26	18	.591	—
Detroit	24	19	.558	1½
Kansas City	21	22	.488	4½
Chicago	21	24	.467	5½
Minnesota	18	25	.419	7½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	30	17	.638	—
Oakland	25	23	.521	5½
Seattle	20	27	.426	10
Los Angeles	19	27	.413	10½
Houston	14	33	.298	16

Wednesday's results
Texas 3 Oakland 1
Toronto 4 Tampa Bay 3 (10)
Baltimore 6 N.Y. Yankees 3
L.A. Angels 7 Seattle 1
Boston 6 Chicago White Sox 2
Houston 3 Kansas City 1
Detroit at Cleveland
Tuesday's results
Detroit 5 Cleveland 1
Baltimore 3 N.Y. Yankees 2 (10)
Tampa Bay 4 Toronto 3
Oakland 1 Texas 0
Chicago White Sox 3 Boston 1
Kansas City 7 Houston 3
L.A. Angels 12 Seattle 0
Thursday's games
All times Eastern
Baltimore (Gausman 0-0) at Toronto (Morrow 1-3), 7:07 p.m.
Minnesota (Diamond 3-4) at Detroit (Porcello 2-2), 7:08 p.m.
Cleveland (McAllister 3-3) at Boston (Dempster 2-4), 7:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Blanton 0-7) at Kansas City (Santana 3-3), 8:10 p.m.
Friday's games
Baltimore at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 7:08 p.m.
Cleveland at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay, 7:10 p.m.
Miami at Chicago White Sox, 8:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.
Oakland at Houston, 8:10 p.m.
Texas at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	28	18	.609	—
Washington	24	23	.511	4½
Philadelphia	23	24	.489	5½
New York	17	27	.386	10
Miami	13	34	.277	15½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	29	16	.644	—
Cincinnati	29	18	.617	1
Pittsburgh	28	18	.609	1½
Chicago	18	27	.400	11
Milwaukee	18	27	.400	11

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	26	21	.553	—
Colorado	26	21	.553	—
San Francisco	26	21	.553	—
San Diego	21	24	.467	4
Los Angeles	19	26	.422	6

Wednesday's results
Atlanta 8 Minnesota 3
Cincinnati 7 N.Y. Mets 4
L.A. Dodgers 9 Milwaukee 2
Colorado 4 Arizona 1
Washington 2 San Francisco 1 (10)
Pittsburgh 1 Chicago Cubs 0
Philadelphia 3 Miami 0
St. Louis at San Diego
Tuesday's results
Pittsburgh 5 Chicago Cubs 4
Atlanta 5 Minnesota 4 (10)
Cincinnati 4 N.Y. Mets 0
Philadelphia 7 Miami 3
Milwaukee 5 L.A. Dodgers 2
Colorado 5 Arizona 4 (10)
St. Louis 10 San Diego 2
San Francisco 4 Washington 2 (10)
Thursday, May 23
All times Eastern
Chicago Cubs (Jackson 1-6) at Pittsburgh (Gomez 2-0), 12:35 p.m.
Friday's games
Philadelphia at Washington, 7:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati, 7:10 p.m.
Atlanta at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee, 8:10 p.m.
San Diego at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.
St. Louis at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.
Colorado at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Chances are you will waste a considerable amount of time today doing nothing. And why shouldn't you? You can't be a live wire Aries every day of the week. Goof off, but only a little.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Why are you using up so much energy trying to change things you know cannot be changed? Yes, OK, your sense of purpose is impressive but there comes a point when it just becomes stupid. Give it up.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Sometimes it's not wise to dig deeply, especially in areas where people's secrets are concerned. If nothing else, it gives people an excuse to do a little digging in your affairs too.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If your instincts tell you that something is wrong, you must not allow loved ones to persuade you otherwise. You are entitled to your point of view and you don't have to change it for anyone.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Try to resist the urge to spend your hard-earned cash on things you don't really need. Yes, of course, there are more important things in life than money but that does not mean you should throw it away.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
There is something a partner needs to be told and you know it is you who must tell it. You also know they won't be happy to be made to face up to the truth. It's for their own benefit.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You need a change of scene, so if you get the chance to go somewhere different today, even if it's just a walk round the block, take it. A new environment will give you a new perspective on your problems.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Whatever setbacks you may have experienced recently, your long-term outlook is good so stop worrying. You may find that hard to believe but the planets don't lie.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may be tempted to open your heart and let everyone know how you feel but is that a bright idea? There are people out there who would happily use your honesty against you.

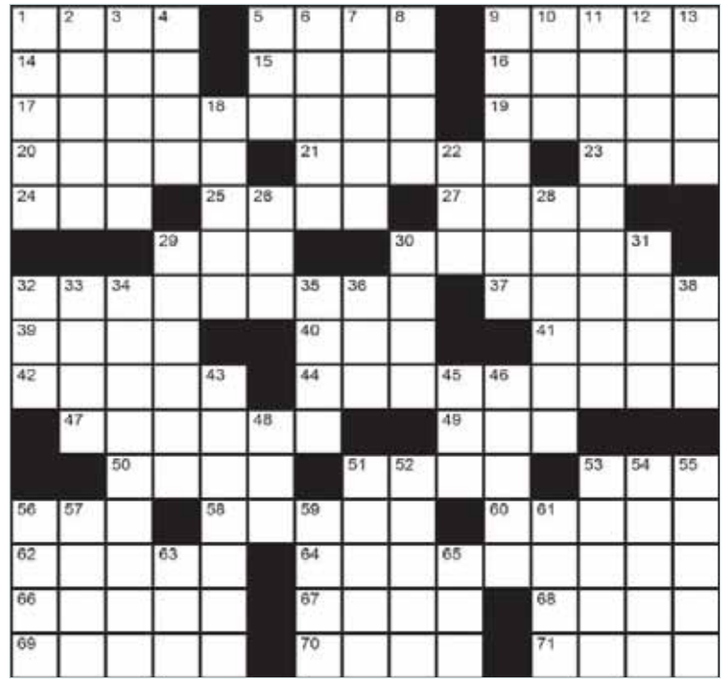
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The most important thing over the next few days is that you have faith in yourself. Talent and experience are important, of course, but self-belief trumps everything.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may have to say something to a friend that sounds a bit harsh but it is for their own good. They will be stronger for it in the long-term — and they will always remember it was you who made it possible.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Be careful you don't jump to conclusions today, especially if you are the kind of Pisces who thinks more with your heart than your head. Give others a chance to explain before you pass judgement. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

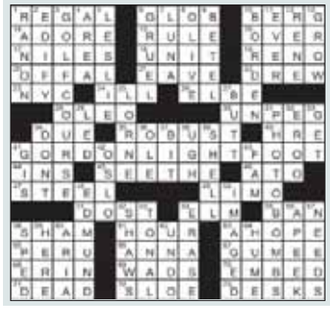
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Be unwilling/complain
5. Computer company
9. Upper Fort __ (Historical site in Manitoba)
14. Fertilizer ingredient
15. Timbuktu's locale in Africa
16. Permeate
17. Vancouver's __ Island
19. "__ Fat Greek Wedding" (2002): 2 wds.
20. Los Angeles basketballer
21. Snake's toxin
23. HS subject
24. Winding shape
25. Candid
27. Billboard
29. Note before Lah
30. Pour†out wine
32. New Brunswick city
37. Actor Chris of "American Pie"
39. Take _ __ dancing lesson
40. Regret
41. Sgt. Snorkel's comic strip dog
42. Mow the grass shorter
44. Johnny Depp's frequent movie director: 2 wds.
47. 'Synthetica' is this Canadian band's current album
49. Sort of tribute
50. Workshop implement
51. Garbage bag brand
53. Bird that's a thief
56. Auto
58. Actor Mr. Davis
60. Ahead of time
62. Visibly stunned
64. French __, as per education
66. Nouveau __ ($$$)
67. Its capital is Muscat
68. Terrible tsar
69. Gambling card game
70. R&B singer, __-__
71. Singer Ms. Dobson

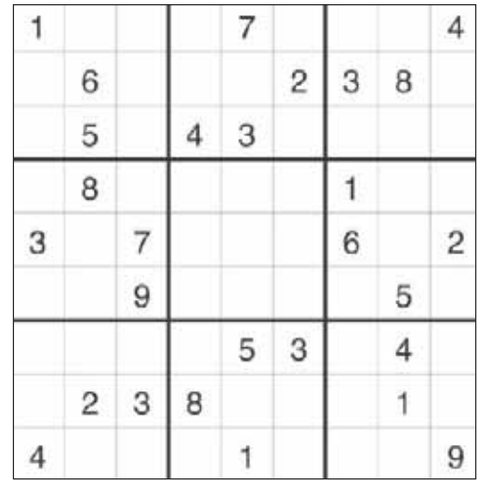
Down
1. Military instrument
2. Rich tapestry
3. Drip-drops
4. "Citizen __" (1941)
5. "Who __ _ to say?"
6. Birth a bovine
7. "Grey's Anatomy" star Ms. Pompeo
8. Zippo ...mais en francais
9. Marketing ploy, for instance
10. Canadian singer/songwriter Ms. Sky
11. 11th Prime Minister, from 1930 to 1935: _._. __
12. Destroy
13. Safecracker
18. High speedster's sound
22. Suffix with 'Lact'
26. __ Beta Kappa
28. Aplenty
29. Canadian cheese giant since 1954
30. Per __ (Daily)
31. Musician Mr. Puente
32. Impair
33. Detail
34. NASCAR venue
35. Federal org. concerning broadcasting
36. Aujourd'__ (Today, in French)
38. __-stick frying pan
43. "Raise a Little Hell" band
45. __ constrictor
46. Bovid bag
48. French pronoun
51. "That's mine!!"
52. Catriona __ __ Doan, Canadian Olympian/broadcaster
53. Ambition
54. "We need _ __ of bread." ...said the store-stuff needer
55. Kathleen __, Premier of Ontario
56. Kind of fish
57. Currency exchange fee
59. Priory of __
61. "Like, that's ever going to happen.": 2 wds.
63. "__ Loves You" by The Beatles
65. Roxy Music's Brian

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

9	6	2	5	1	4	7	8	3
8	3	1	9	6	7	4	2	5
5	7	4	8	2	3	6	9	1
2	5	7	3	4	1	9	6	8
6	9	3	7	8	2	1	5	4
4	1	8	6	9	5	2	3	7
1	8	9	4	5	6	3	7	2
3	4	6	2	7	8	5	1	9
7	2	5	1	3	9	8	4	6

Today
14°/9°
Partly cloudy
Friday
16°/11°
Mainly sunny
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
TWN incorporates MSC data

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